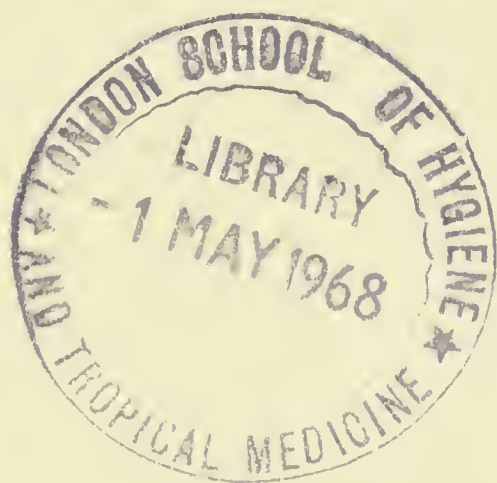


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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

For the Year 1933.

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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.



REPORT

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING
COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Chairman - Councillor Col. W. N. HAY, C.I.E., D.S.O., J.P.
Vice-Chairman - THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman W. E. SOWTER, J.P.)
 THE MAYOR (Councillor H. R. NEATE, J.P.)
 Councillor E. G. EELES.
 Councillor F. P. H. GOWER.
 Councillor Mrs. M. M. KENNEY-HERBERT.
 Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P.
 Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.
 Councillor REV. A. W. RAMSAY MURRAY, B.A.

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE
COMMITTEE.

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. M. M. KENNEY-HERBERT.
 THE MAYOR (Councillor H. R. NEATE, J.P.)
 Councillor A. F. BEAGLE.
 Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.
 Councillor REV. A. W. RAMSAY MURRAY, B.A.

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. BARFORD. Mrs. MYERS-DAWES. Mrs. NASH.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) MEDICAL.

**Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent
of Isolation Hospital**

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
(part time)

DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.

Dental Surgeon for Maternity and Child Welfare Work
(part time)

C. C. INGROUILLE, B.D.S. (*Resigned 12th June, 1933.*)

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S. (*Appointed 13th June, 1933.*)

(b) OTHER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector

J. F. WILKINSON, M.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector

J. N. MARTIN, A.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection, M.S.I.A.

Clerks

F. J. DIX

C. A. L. SETCHELL

Miss E. MACKIE (Maternity and Child Welfare).

Laboratory Assistant

E. J. CONSTABLE.

Health Visitor, and Inspector of Midwives

Miss B. M. RODGERS, S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visitor (half time) and School Nurse (also half time)

Miss A. DICKSON, S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visitor (full time)

Miss W. M. SMART, S.R.N., H.V.Cert. R.S.I.

Matron, Isolation Hospitals

Miss I. T. MCGROUTHER, S.R.N.

The staff of the Isolation Hospital consists of the
Matron, three Staff Nurses and three Probationers.

Public Analyst

J. KEAR COLWELL, F.I.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

1st May, 1934.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bedford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1933.

On the whole the year was a healthy one with no outstanding cause of mortality.

The general death rate was 12.5 per thousand, which shows a slight increase over that for the previous year. This slight increase in the death rate may probably be accounted for by the increase in average age of the population which is taking place as the result of changes in the birth rate in past years.

Among the usual epidemic diseases Measles was prevalent in the earlier part of the year and Scarlet Fever in the latter part. Diphtheria still remains absent from the town.

Attention continues to be given to Housing as is shown in the details given in the body of this report, with the result that housing conditions in the town show a steady improvement, not only by the demolition of the comparatively few unrepairable houses, but also by the systematic inspection and repair of those houses which can be repaired so as to form healthy dwellings. This work, I have little doubt, is reflected in the good record of the Borough with regard to the prevalence of and mortality from epidemic diseases.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks for the valuable assistance I have received during the year from the Town Clerk, the Borough Surveyor, and the Housing Manager, as also for the loyal support of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his colleagues, and of all the members of the Health Visiting and Nursing Staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. K. BOWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Annual Report
OF
Medical Officer of Health
For 1933.

I. Statistics and Social Conditions.

1.—Vital Statistics and General Observations.

Area of Borough, 2,223 acres.
Population (Census, 1931), 40,554.
Population (estimated as resident by Registrar-General, 1933), 40,750.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1933, according to Rate Books), 10,400.
Number of new houses rated during the year :—
 (a) Total 147
 (b) As a part of Municipal Housing Scheme 22
Rateable value on December 31st, 1933 £308,054
Sum produced by Penny Rate (half year ending 30th Sept., 1933), £1,214

I am pleased to be able to report that conditions with regard to un-employment have improved very much since the date of my last report. The figures as they relate to Bedford and the immediate neighbourhood in March of the present year compared with those of a year ago are as follows :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Men</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Girls</i>		<i>Total</i>
1934	...	830	7	214	28	...	1,089
1933	...	1,674	49	336	106	...	2,165

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1933.

Live Births—			<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>				
Legitimate	...	399	214	185	Birth Rate per 1,000 of				
Illegitimate	...	21	14	7	population	...	...	10.3	
Still Births	...	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 total				
					(live and still) births			30.0	
Deaths	...	511	223	228	Death Rate per 1,000				
					population	...	...	12.5	
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :—									
From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—									
Total	...	14	Rate per 1,000 live births			...	...	35	
Legitimate	...	11	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births..					28	
Illegitimate	...	3	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births					143	
Deaths from Measles (all ages), 2.									
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 2.									
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0.									

I am indebted to Mr. C. E. Craddock, the Rating and Valuation Officer, for the following statement of the estimated number of houses and population :—

“Estimated number of houses, 31st December, 1932...	...	10,506
New houses added to Rate Book during the year 1933	147	
Less removed therefrom, condemned and otherwise pulled down ...	...	48
Net increase	...	99
Estimated number of houses, 31st December, 1933	...	10,605
Less vacant, including new houses not quite ready for occupation ...	...	205
Estimated number of occupied houses, 31st Dec., 1933	...	10,400
Estimated population at 4 persons per house	...	41,600
Rateable value of the Borough, 31st December, 1933	...	£308,054

“ I believe that the average of 4 per house is being maintained or even slowly improving, for when I prepared the Voters List as far back as June last I found a very slight increase in the number of lodgers, and although a large number of people moved from Bedford to the London Road Estate, and otherwise just outside the Borough boundary the number on the Borough List was not so severely reduced.”

2.—Population.

The population is estimated by the Registrar General for the mid-year 1933 as 40,750, which shows a decrease of 430 on the figures for the preceding year. When it is remembered that during the year under review not only were 168 municipal houses built outside the then existing Borough boundary, but also a large number of privately built houses were built immediately outside the same boundary, it may readily be believed that the population has decreased mainly on account of the tendency of population to leave the area of the old Borough for its immediate neighbourhood. On comparison of the birth and death rates it will be seen that there was during the year a natural decrease, or difference between the birth and death rates, of 2.2 per thousand. The amount of the natural decrease may again be explained in part by the fact that tenants for municipal houses are selected largely on the ground that they already have and are likely to have families, and consist for the most part of young people. The transference therefore of young adults who are having children to municipal houses outside the Borough boundary must have tended to lower the birth rate, and, though to a less extent, to raise the death rate of the population remaining in the Borough. Such an explanation, however, accounts for a part only of the natural decrease, the greater part being due to the continuance of the fall in the birth rate which is taking place in all areas generally. It remains true that the time will shortly come when a natural decrease will become the rule not only in Bedford, but in the country as a whole, and increases in population which occur in any one area will be at the expense of decreases in other areas. This has been said before, and, though obvious, is not generally realised, so that there is no harm in saying it again. The matter is of practical importance when considering schemes for the near future the extent of which depends on estimates of future population.

3.—Birth Rate.

The birth rate for the Borough in 1933 was 10.3 per thousand, which may be compared with a figure of 12.2 per thousand in 1932. The figures for England and Wales as a whole for the years 1933 and 1932 were 14.4 and 15.3 respectively. The fall in the birth rate in the Borough corresponds to a diminution of 83 in the actual number of births, from 503 in 1932 to 420 in 1933. This very large decrease in births may be in part accounted for, as already indicated, by the fact that the municipal housing estates, built primarily for families with children, were constructed mainly outside the Borough boundary. As, however, only 20 births occurred in the houses on the municipal estates outside the Borough boundary during the year under review, it would appear that the greater part of the fall in the birth rate as recorded by the Registrar General has been due to a real diminution in the birth rate in the population of the borough and its immediate environs, a diminution which is common to the whole country.

How much further the birth rate can fall one cannot say, but already one seems to see not far ahead that depopulation due to decline in births which civilisations at a certain stage seem inevitably to suffer.

4.—Death Rate.

The death rate for the year was 12.5 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 12.2 per thousand during 1932. The figures for England and Wales were 12.2 and 12.0 for the years 1933 and 1932 respectively. The fact that the population of Bedford is on an average older than that of the country as a whole would tend to raise the death rate as compared with England and Wales. The small amount of this excess in the rate for Bedford may be taken as satisfactory. Both in Bedford and the country as a whole we are now witnessing the beginning of that tendency to rise which the death rate will show in the near future on account of the gradual increase in average age of the population, this increase being the necessary consequence of the changes in the birth and death rates in recent years.

5.—Causes of Death—Statistics.

The table immediately following, supplied by the Registrar-General, gives the causes of deaths of residents in the Borough during the year 1933, and the next table gives for comparison the birth rate, general death rate, and death rate for certain specified causes for the country as a whole, and for certain groups of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes					223	288
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...					...	...
2. Measles					1	1
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..					...	...
4. Whooping Cough ... ..					...	2
5. Diphtheria ... ..					...	...
6. Influenza					12	15
7. Encephalitis Lethargica					1	...
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..					...	1
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...					10	9
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases					4	...
11. Syphilis					1	...
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... ..					...	...
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease					27	57
14. Diabetes					3	3
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.					8	18
16. Heart Disease					49	67
17. Aneurysm ... ..					...	1
18. Other Circulatory Diseases					20	30
19. Bronchitis					7	15
20. Pneumonia (all forms)					12	8
21. Other Respiratory Diseases					1	2
22. Peptic Ulcer					1	...
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..					...	...
24. Appendicitis					3	...
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..					...	...
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..					...	3
27. Other Digestive Diseases					6	2
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis					15	6
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..					...	...
30. Other Puerperal Causes ... ..					...	1
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.					5	3
32. Senility					4	13
33. Suicide					4	1
34. Other Violence					9	6
35. Other defined Diseases					18	23
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown					2	1
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)						
Smallpox ... ..					...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..					...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..					..	...
Deaths of Infants { Total					9	5
under 1 year { Legitimate					6	5
{ Illegitimate					3	...
Live Births { Total					228	192
{ Legitimate					214	185
{ Illegitimate					14	7
Stillbirths { Total					8	5
{ Legitimate					8	5
{ Illegitimate ... ..					...	...
Population					40,750	

It will be seen from the table that influenza accounted for 27 deaths. The following table shows the number of deaths caused by influenza and those respiratory diseases whose incidence is largely dependent on influenza for the past three years. In 1930 influenza did not occur in epidemic form, in 1931, 1932 and 1933 it was prevalent.

	1930	1931	1932	1933
Influenza	8	22	28	27
Pneumonia	11	19	20	20
Bronchitis	14	33	20	22

Two deaths were due to measles, and the same number to whooping cough. No deaths were due to scarlet fever or diphtheria. One death was registered as due to puerperal causes other than puerperal sepsis. Suicide accounted for 5 deaths. Cancer accounted for 84 deaths. Five deaths of Borough residents were due to motor accidents either within or outside the Borough boundary. Two deaths occurred within the Borough as the result of motor accidents, in one of which a pedal cyclist was knocked down by a motor car, in the other of which a pedestrian, an old woman, was knocked down by a motor car. Both of these persons were Borough residents.

6.—Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infantile Mortality from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age :—

	Weeks.				Total under one month.	Months.				Total under one year.
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Measles ... ..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5
Congenital defects (Malformation and Ateletasis) ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility and Icterus ... ..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Developmental and Wasting diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous diseases... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	3
Other causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Totals	8	...	...	1	9	2	1	...	2	14

Of the total 14, 10 were males and 4 females. The total number of deaths under one year corresponds to the very low infant mortality rate of 35 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 64 per thousand for England and Wales. Of this total, 8 took place in the first week of life, an additional 1 in the remaining three weeks of the first month, making in all 9 in the first month, and 5 in the second to the twelfth months of life inclusive.

II. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1.—Nursing in the Home.

No changes took place in the arrangements in the area for general Nursing, or for the nursing of Infectious Diseases.

2.—Midwives.

The number practising regularly in the area is 17, of whom 9 practise in institutions, while the remaining 8 are in general practice.

3.—Laboratory Facilities.

There have been no changes in the arrangements for the examination of swabs and sputa and other materials.

4.—Legislation in Force.

There has been no change in the Local Acts, General Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in the course of the year.

5.—Hospitals.

No change took place in the Hospital arrangements of the Borough.

6.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children and Homeless Children.

There have been no changes in arrangements under this heading.

7.—Ambulance Facilities.

No change has been made in the ambulance arrangements for the district.

8.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No changes took place in the Clinics and Treatment Centres in the district during the year under review.

III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the bulk of the information under the following headings relating to water, drainage and sewerage, and scavenging, showing developments which have taken place during the year under review.

1.—Water.

(a) Supply and Quality.

The water has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

Bacteriological samples are taken weekly from the water after final treatment, either at the works or from a tap in the town, and monthly from each of the following points—the river, the rising main, the old storage reservoir, one of the new storage reservoirs, the effluent from each of the filters taken separately, and the water consisting of the combined effluent from all the filters at the inlet to the chlorinating tank before final chlorination.

The results indicate that the water is of good bacteriological quality. The following are typical results of analysis, which on the whole show little variation.

Date	Number of colonies growing on gelatine in 3 days at 22°C.		Number of colonies growing on agar in 24 hours at 37°C.		B. Coli Present in Absent in	
<i>River.</i>						
6/11/33	...	2,048	...	56	...	10 c.c. 1 c.c.
<i>Rising Main.</i>						
6/11/33	...	268	...	52	...	10 c.c. 1 c.c.
<i>Old Storage Reservoir No. 1.</i>						
1/5/33	...	238	...	40	...	20 c.c. 10 c.c.
<i>New Storage Reservoir No. 4.</i>						
25/9/33	...	704	...	4	...	10 c.c. 1 c.c.
<i>Effluent from Filter No. 7.</i>						
22/5/33	...	28	...	5	...	— 100 c.c.
<i>Inlet to Chlorinating Tank.</i>						
29/5/33	...	97	...	17	...	— 100 c.c.
<i>Outlet from Tank.</i>						
4/9/33	...	13	...	5	...	— 100 c.c.

On all occasions *b. coli* was absent from 100 c.c. of the treated water. Only on rare occasions was it present in 100 c.c. or less in the effluent from the individual filters or the combined effluent. Even before chlorination the water is almost invariably up to the highest drinking water standard of absence of *b. coli* in 100 c.c. and a gelatine count of less than 100.

During most of the year the dose of chlorine was maintained at 1 part per million. In view, however, of some rise in the bacterial count of the water after chlorination during the very hot summer weather it was decided to increase the dose of chlorine to 1.5 parts per million.

The potassium permanganate treatment has continued to act successfully as a preventive of algal growths. During the year under review no modifications have been made in this treatment, but a secondary dose of permanganate is now being added to the water immediately before it reaches the filters, with a view to preventing the development of algal growths on the filters.

During the year new works were installed for the treatment by coagulation of the water before filtration. The treatment consists in the addition of a small dose of aluminium sulphate in order to precipitate impurities and so render the process of filtration easier and more efficient, thus leading to a lengthening of the intervals between successive cleanings of the filters. The coagulation works consist of a coagulation mixing and proportioning apparatus, the coagulant being injected into the main leading to the contact chamber and precipitation basin. The precipitation basin is estimated to hold about 16 hours flow, after which clarified raw water passes through copper screens, and is then aerated and falls into the clear water basin before passing on to the filter beds.

The old sprinkler type of filters have now been converted to the submerged type.

Progress is being made with the replacement of the old type of ball hydrants by a valve hydrant, with a view to preventing accidental pollution of the water.

Following an application from the Bedford Rural District Council, from which it appeared that there was an inadequate water supply in New Harrowden, owing to the drought, arrangements were made to extend the Borough water mains to this village. This work has now been completed.

(b) Rainfall.

The rainfall registered by the rain gauge in Bedford Park in 1933 is set out below and will be seen to be much below the average :—

						<i>Inches</i>
January	...	...	...	...	...	0.91
February	...	...	...	...	...	0.89
March ...	...	...	...	...	...	1.63
April ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.92
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	1.15
June ...	...	...	...	...	...	1.87
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.79
August	...	...	...	...	...	0.91
September	...	...	...	...	...	1.87
October	...	...	...	...	...	0.77
November	...	...	...	...	...	1.75
December	...	...	...	...	...	0.39
Total						<hr/> 13.85 <hr/>

2.—Rivers and Streams.

The river has been regularly inspected with a view to the discovery of any pollution. The necessary action has been taken where this has been found.

3.—Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no developments of any note in connection with sewers or sewage disposal. The regular flushing and inspection of sewers has been carried out, and defective lengths made good where necessary. A length of storm water effluent drain has been laid at the Sewage Disposal Works for the more efficient use of the storm water land there.

4.—Public Cleansing.

The method of collecting refuse by mechanical vehicles still shows a very considerable saving over the old method of horse drawn vehicles. During the year a mechanical vehicle has been used for cleansing gullies, and this is proving cleaner, more efficient, and considerably cheaper than the old method with horse-drawn vehicles.

10,190 tons of house refuse, and 466 tons of trade refuse have been dealt with at the Destructor during the year.

Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. C. HAYNES, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

IV. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The duties carried out by the Inspectors of the Department during the year 1933 are included in the following (1) Summary of Inspections and (2) Table showing detailed nature of work carried out, together with the information contained in Sections V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XXI of this Report.

1.—Summary of General Inspections, and Administrative Duties.

HOUSING.

No. of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	781
„ Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	698
„ Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation	19
„ Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts ...	563
„ Premises at which nuisances or defects discovered ...	512
„ Re-visits to houses and premises under Housing and Public Health Acts	8,043
„ Houses remedied under Housing Acts	*696
„ Premises where nuisances remedied under Public Health Acts	512
„ Houses and rooms found to be overcrowded (on all standards)	231

*This figure includes 61 houses inspected in 1932.

DRAINAGE.

No. of House drains tested on payment of fee	25
„ „ „ where defects found	19
„ Drains tested on complaint	83
„ „ where defects found	83
„ Drains inspected after exposure... ..	56
„ „ where defects found	56
„ Schools and Boarding House drains tested	69
„ „ „ „ „ where defects found	27
„ Drains examined after notification of Infectious Disease	110
„ Re-visits for inspection during repairs and reconstruction	1,310
„ Retests made to drains	259

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
,, Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...					148

COWSHEDS AND DAIRY PREMISES.

No. of visits made for inspection of premises and fitments	...						352
--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	-----

VISITS MADE TO SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

No. of visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,172
,, ,, Meat Shops, Stalls and Vehicles	...	...				343
,, ,, Fish Shops, Stalls and Vehicles	...	...				174
,, ,, Fruit Shops, Stalls and Vehicles	...	...				250
,, ,, Grocery and Provision Shops, Stalls and Vehicles						90
,, ,, Restaurant Kitchens and Refreshment Houses						75
,, ,, Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...		64
,, ,, Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	...	19
,, ,, Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	180

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS, INCLUDING BAKEHOUSES.

No. of visits to Factories, including Bakehouses	...	...				106
,, ,, Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...				244
,, ,, Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	205
,, ,, Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	58

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No. of Observations made	...	...	...	...	...	61
,, Interviews with Managers and Stokers, etc.	...	...				3

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No. of visits of inspection to premises and vehicles				49
--	-----	-----	--	--	--	----

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No. of visits made	36
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HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

No. of visits made	143
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

SUNDRY NUISANCES.

No. of visits made reference complaints or nuisances discovered						71
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MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.

No. of visits made (unclassified)		1,365
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ANIMALS (PREMISES).

No. of visits made	18
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MOVABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS &C.

No. of visits made	65
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AMUSEMENT HOUSES.

No. of visits made	32
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

PUBLIC HOUSES AND HOTELS.

No. of visits made	76
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS.

No. of visits made to shops and vehicles	372
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS.

No. of visits made to infested premises...	223
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

No. of Samples submitted to the Public Analyst, formal 36, informal 52	88
„ Samples reported upon as being adulterated	.....	...	11	
„ Informal samples procured and examined in the Laboratory of the Public Health Department	...	403				
No. found to be not of requisite standard	...	...	70	
No. of Samples of Graded Milk submitted for examination	...	24				
„ Samples of Graded Milk not of requisite standard	...	3				
„ Samples for bacteriological examination	...	...	46	

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

No. of Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, Tenants, etc.—

At office	1,620
On site	4,031
„ Informal notices served under Housing Act	...	...	698		
„ „ „ „ „ Public Health Acts	...	512				
„ „ „ „ „ various Bye-laws, Orders and Regulations	...	...	...	...	86
Total No. of Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	1,296
„ Statutory Notices served—						
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	19
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	—
„ Legal proceedings taken under—						
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	—
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	—
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	8	
Other Statutes, Orders or Regulations	...	...	2		

ADMINISTRATION.

(i) *Housing Acts.*

The work of “house to house” inspection has again been chiefly confined to houses situated in the older parts of the town and a total of 762 houses were inspected during the year.

Further particulars as to action taken under the Housing Acts are given under the section dealing with Housing Conditions (see page 39).

(ii) *Public Health Acts.*

On receipt of "complaints" and in course of visitation to houses in connection with other branches of Public Health work, inspections are made and any minor defects dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

During the year 563 inspections were carried out and defects dealt with in respect of these houses.

(iii) *Food and Drugs Samples.*

Fuller particulars are given in the sections dealing with Milk (Section X) and Adulteration of Food (Section XI).

2.—Table shewing detailed nature of work carried out as a Result of Inspections.

(a) *Dwelling Houses.*

DWELLING HOUSES—GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

No. of Defective roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	232
„ Defective chimney heads repaired or renewed	...	...	...	540
„ Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	156
„ Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	221
„ Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound...	...	...	...	242
„ Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	...	1,567
„ Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	207
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	509
„ Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	738
„ New windows fixed to provide additional light	...	...	...	78
„ Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	330
„ Defective doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	217
„ Defective stair treads repaired or renewed	...	...	...	89
„ Handrails provided to stairs	...	...	...	298
No. of Defective coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	183
„ Rooms provided with permanent ventilation	...	...	...	1,093
„ Food cupboards provided	...	...	...	13
„ Defective food cupboards made sound	...	...	...	326
„ Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective stone sinks	...	...	...	390
„ Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	145
„ Separate sinks and water supply provided	...	...	...	10
„ Bath and sink waste pipes trapped	...	...	...	23
„ Rent books with absence of owner's name and address	...	...	...	14
„ Rent books with absence of Medical Officer of Health's name and address	...	...	...	17
„ Houses at which overcrowding abated	...	...	...	47

WATER CLOSETS.

No. of Premises where additional W.C. provided	...	...	5
„ Premises where separate W.C. accommodation provided			3
„ Premises where defective W.C. repaired or rebuilt	...		172
„ Pedestal pans provided	...	...	209
„ Lift-up seats provided in lieu of boxed-in seats	...		437
„ Defective W.C. seats repaired	...	...	14
„ Water supply provided	...	...	11
„ Defective cisterns or fittings repaired or renewed	...		87
„ Premises where W.C. compartment cleansed	...		384
„ Premises where ventilation and lighting provided	...		208
„ Premises where W.C. provided in lieu of dry receptacle..			—

OUTHOUSES.

No. of Defective outhouses repaired or rebuilt	...	...	317
„ Defective spoutings repaired or renewed	...	...	100
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	42
„ Outhouses cleansed, etc.	...	...	126

DRAINAGE.

No. of Blocked drains cleared and flushed	...	...	97
„ Defective drains repaired or partially reconstructed	...		160
„ Defective drains wholly relaid	...	...	25
„ Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	23
„ Intercepting or inspection chambers built	...	...	76
„ Intercepting or inspection chambers repaired	...	...	20
„ New covers provided to inspection chambers	...	...	41
„ Fresh air inlets to intercepting traps provided or repaired	...	...	21
„ New soil and vent pipes fixed	...	...	40
„ Soil and vent pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	26
„ Insanitary traps abolished	...	...	3
„ Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	14

YARDS.

No. of Houses at which yards were paved	...	...	17
„ Houses at which yard paving was repaired or renewed			251
„ Passages levelled and gravelled	...	...	22
„ Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	311
„ Nuisances abated arising from accumulation of filth or keeping of animals	...	...	16
„ Houses at which ashpits demolished	...	...	3
„ Boundary walls repaired or renewed	...	...	67

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of Rooms disinfected	...	...	235
„ Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	...		17,025
„ Rooms stripped and cleansed after infectious disease...			5

(b) Other Premises.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT SHOPS.

No. where	Defective roofs and spouting remedied	...	...	3
„	„ Defective walls or ceilings remedied	...	...	5
„	„ Defective floors or yard paving remedied	...	...	1
„	„ Other improvements carried out	...	...	17
„	„ Blocked or defective drains remedied or reconstructed			1
„	„ Defective lighting and ventilation remedied	...		1
„	„ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	136

COWSHEDS AND DAIRY PREMISES.

No. of	New dairy premises constructed or established	...	2
„	Existing dairy premises at which other improvements carried out	...	11
„	Dairy premises where limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	65

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND WORKSHOPS (INCLUDING BAKEHOUSES).

No. where	Defective roofs or spouting remedied	...	...	2
„	„ Defective walls or ceilings remedied	...	...	5
„	„ Defective floors remedied	...	...	3
„	„ Defective yard pavings remedied	...	...	1
„	„ Other improvements carried out	...	...	9
„	„ Blocked or defective drains remedied or reconstructed			1
„	„ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied	...		2
„	„ Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with—			
	(a) Unsuitable	...	...	2
	(b) Separation for sexes	...	...	—
„	„ Overcrowding remedied	...	...	—
„	„ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	91
„	„ Register provided	...	...	5
„	„ Sinks provided	...	...	1

OFFENSIVE TRADES PREMISES.

No. where	Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	27
„	„ Structural defects remedied	...	1
„	„ Floors relaid or repaired	...	2
„	„ Yards repaved or repaired	...	1
„	„ Premises entirely reconstructed	...	—
„	„ Drains reconstructed	...	—
„	„ Additional ventilation provided	...	1
„	„ New sanitary bins provided	...	12
„	„ Modern fish frying ranges fixed	...	1
„	„ Ranges repaired	...	1

PUBLIC HOUSES, AND HOTELS.

No. where Flushes provided to urinals ...	...	...	...	20
„ „ W.C.s provided or reinstated ...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Paving made sound ...	...	...	...	3

FOOD PREMISES (SHOPS), ETC.

No. where structural defects remedied ...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Other improvements carried out ...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Limewashing or general cleansing carried out ...	...	...	...	43

REFRESHMENT HOUSES AND RESTAURANT KITCHENS.

No. where structural defects remedied ...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Other improvements carried out ...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied ...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Limewashing or general cleansing carried out ...	...	...	...	16

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No. where structural defects remedied ...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out ...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Other improvements carried out ...	...	...	...	2

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

No. where structural defects remedied ...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Floors repaired ...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Additional ventilation provided ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Proper food storage provided ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Additional artificial light provided ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Yards repaved ...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Drains reconstructed and inspection chambers built, and soil and vent pipes fixed ...	...	...	...	1
No. of W.C. pedestal pans fixed ...	...	...	...	2
„ Additional W.C.s provided ...	...	...	...	—
„ Additional glazed sinks fixed ...	...	...	...	2
„ Water service supply pipes fixed ...	...	...	...	1
„ Defective sinks replaced with glazed sinks ...	...	...	...	2
„ Sanitary dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	10
„ Rooms and staircases and passages cleansed and re-decorated ...	...	...	...	33
„ Additional cookers provided ...	...	...	...	2
„ Additional wash boilers provided ...	...	...	...	1
„ Overcrowded sleeping rooms abated ...	...	...	...	5
„ W.C. fittings repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	7

ANIMALS (PREMISES).

No. where structural defects remedied ...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out ...	...	...	...	8

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No. of structural improvements	...	...	...	...	1
„ Smoke preventing apparatus installed	...	...	...	...	1

AMUSEMENT HOUSES.

No. where structural improvements effected	...	...	...	2
„ „ Cleansing and re-decoration carried out	...	...	...	3
„ „ Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected	...	...	...	—

The “other premises” under heading (b) above are later referred to in Sections V, VI, IX and XXI.

(c) Administration of Housing Acts, Public Health Acts and various Byelaws, Orders and Regulations.

The following table gives a summary of the Notices served to secure compliance with the provisions of the various Statutes, Byelaws, Orders and Regulations, together with the result of such action.

Statute	No. of houses inspected	Notices served		Notices complied with	Notices still out-standing
		Informal	Statutory		
Housing Acts	781	698	19	635	63
Public Health Acts...	563	512	—	512	—
Various Byelaws, Orders & Regulations	164 Premises	86	—	86	—
Totals	1,518	1,296	19	1,233	63

3.—Observations.

(1) Action under the Housing Acts.

The administrative duties devolving upon the Inspectorate in securing compliance with requirements are many and varied.

A notice under the Housing Acts is required to be carefully prepared, as it is necessary for the Inspector to satisfy himself that a house can be rendered fit at a reasonable cost. For this purpose regard must be given to the cost of the proposed works to render the house fit, and the valuation of the property.

The procedure which is taken consequent upon initial inspections is the service of informal notices upon the owners concerned, with subsequent interviews with the respective owners and builders engaged in

carrying out the work. This course would appear to be most satisfactory, as it gives an opportunity to any individual owner to satisfy himself as to the reasonableness of the requirements included in the works specified in the notice, and at the same time take advantage of the experience and advice of the Inspector as to the best method of carrying out the work.

During the progress of the work the Inspector makes repeated visits to the various properties, and is thus able to ensure that the work is being carried out in a satisfactory manner, and that any special recommendation he may have made in dealing with difficult matters are properly put into effect. For this purpose a total of 1,602 interviews at the office, and 4,031 on site were held with various property owners, agents and builders, and 8,043 visits were made for the purpose of supervising the work in carrying out the requirements of the 1,210 notices served under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year.

From experience over a number of years, this form of administration is found to be very satisfactory, having regard to the number of houses dealt with, and the fact that it was not found necessary during the year under review to serve a statutory notice to enforce compliance with requirements with regard to property repairs.

The outstanding informal notices at the end of the preceding year were duly complied with during the early part of the year under review.

The statutory notices shown in the table were in respect of demolition orders.

The work in connection with the 63 outstanding notices will be completed in the near future.

(2) Action under Public Health Acts.

The 512 notices served under the above Acts were chiefly with regard to defective or absence of proper sanitary dustbins, nuisance arising from blocked drains, and minor structural defects to house property, offensive accumulations, instances of overcrowding, defective yard paving, verminous premises, and defective drainage.

(3) Action under Byelaws, Orders and Regulations.

There were 86 instances in which it was found necessary to serve notice in regard to infringement, and were chiefly in connection with Houses Let in Lodgings, Common Lodging Houses, Dairy Premises, Slaughter Houses and Food Preparing Premises, Offensive Trades, Smoke Abatement, Keeping of Swine, and Amusement Houses.

4.—Closet Accommodation.

(a) Water Closets.

At the end of the preceding year there were 46 houses with no separate W.C. accommodation, and during the period under review by virtue of demolition of certain houses and the construction of 3 additional

W.C.s, separate accommodation was made in respect of 16 houses. Thus there are at present 30 houses with no separate accommodation, there being 16 W.C.s to these houses.

These 30 houses are comprised as follows :—

- (1) 17 Almshouses with a provision of 11 W.C.s, where a lesser standard of 1 W.C. per house is deemed to meet the requirements of the aged people occupying these houses.
- (2) 7 houses with provision of 3 W.C.s, included in an improvement scheme, where it is proposed to demolish 2 of these houses, and to erect 2 additional W.C.s.
- (3) 6 houses with the provision of 2 W.C.s. These 6 houses are scheduled to be dealt with by demolition order.

(b) **Other types of Closet Accommodation.**

There are several premises where proper connection to the sewer is not readily available.

The following table shows the type of closet and the type of premises.

Type of Closet			No. of house premises	No. of works premises
Chemical Closets	...	...	1	2
Pail or Earth Closets	...	...	9	5
Cesspools	...	...	1	—
Middens	...	...	—	1
Septic Tank	...	...	—	1
Totals	...	...	11	9

5.—Refuse—Storage, Collection, Disposal.

(a) House Refuse.

The problem of suitable means for the storage of house refuse is dealt with by the Public Health Department, whilst the work of collection and disposal is under the control of the Borough Engineer. An up-to-date system of collection is in operation and all such refuse is disposed of at the Refuse Destructor Works.

An arrangement is in operation whereby notification is received from the Borough Engineer with regard to the absence of or unsuitable means of storage of house refuse. In consequence of information from this source, and instances discovered in the course of inspections carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts, the provision of suitable means of storage is a matter which receives close attention, and during the year 311 notices were served requiring provision of new sanitary dustbins, to replace defective worn-out bins or other unsatisfactory means of storage.

In every case the notice was duly complied with.

(b) **Trade Refuse.**

The proper storage of trade refuse is also supervised by the Sanitary Department.

In some cases, tradesmen utilise their own vehicles and deliver the refuse direct to the Refuse Destructor Works, whilst at other trade premises a system of collection is in operation.

A number of tradespeople have a refuse incinerator installed on the premises.

In addition to the above a large quantity of refuse consisting principally of builders' material and other bulky articles of an incombustible nature are disposed of by "tipping." Refuse of this nature is chiefly disposed of on land known as "Cox's Pits," and supervision of the tipping is maintained by a full-time employee of the owner of the land.

It is found upon frequent inspection of the "tip" that the refuse is disposed of without giving rise to any serious nuisance.

6.—Stables and Other Premises where Animals are kept.

Horse transport in connection with the businesses and trades carried on in the town is rapidly being replaced by motors, the keeping of horses is being dispensed with and stables are being converted into garages, although there are still a few premises where horse transport is retained upon which supervision has been maintained. In a few instances it was found necessary to direct attention of horse keepers as to the requirements of the Bye-laws with regard to the regular periodic removal of manure.

Speaking generally the keeping and breeding of swine in the Borough has a tendency to decline and there remain only a few styes situated on the allotment gardens on the outskirts of the town.

Regular periodic visits have been made to these premises to ensure that the premises are maintained in a satisfactory state and for the suppression of any nuisance that might arise.

There still exists in a number of cases the keeping of poultry and rabbits in the yards and gardens adjoining dwelling houses, although very few "complaints" as to nuisances have been received, the householders are often prevailed upon to discontinue the practice and to demolish the outbuildings.

There are premises known as "Zooland" situated near the centre of the town where various species of small animals, reptiles and birds are kept, and the nature of business carried out is partly for exhibition, also for sale. Periodic visits are made to these premises, and the business would appear to be carried on without giving rise to any nuisance.

7.—Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The usual procedure with regard to rat repression has been maintained throughout the year.

In the course of visitation to various types of property, evidence of rat infestation is discovered, or complaints received. In all, 162 cases were dealt with.

Full investigations are made and remedial measures adopted.

The drains in the vicinity are examined, and if found to be defective reconstruction work is carried out ; also due regard is paid to the proper rat proofing of buildings.

As a matter of routine practice poison baits are laid for the purpose of rat repression, which course appears to be satisfactory.

This latter course is also adopted by the Borough Engineer's Department in connection with the public sewers.

"National Rat Week" was not observed in the Borough, constant attention being regarded as more efficacious than a spasmodic effort in dealing with this problem.

The total number of visits made by the Inspectors to infested premises was 223.

8.—Drains.

(a) Testing and Inspection.

(i) *Private Houses and other Premises.*

There is an arrangement in operation whereby on payment of a nominal fee a person interested in the sale or lease of a house may have the drains tested and a report made upon the sanitary fittings and the condition of the drains as indicated by such test. This scheme has proved of material advantage to many persons interested in the purchase of property, and there are very few towns in the country where this facility is available. Prior to such tests being carried out, the owner's consent is required, together with an undertaking that any defects discovered will forthwith be remedied. Under this scheme 25 drains were tested during the year, 19 of which were found to be defective.

In addition to the above inspection and testing of drains is carried out arising from "complaints" or in connection with general sanitary work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

In this connection 139 drains were tested or examined and defects discovered at all these premises.

As a matter of routine the sanitary condition of the drains at houses where infectious diseases occur receive particular attention. In all, the drains at 110 houses were inspected and no defect discovered.

(ii) *Schools and Boarding Houses.*

The drains at the Endowed Schools and Boarding Houses under the control of the Harpur Trust and the Private Schools are periodically tested upon payment of a fee.

A total of 69 such tests were made and defects found in 27 instances.

(b) **Repairs and Reconstruction.**

(i) *Private Houses and Other Premises.*

The drains at 23 houses and premises were entirely reconstructed, whilst work of repair and improvement were effected in 135 instances, making a total of 158 houses and premises at which the drains were put in a sound condition.

(ii) *Schools and Boarding Houses.*

Remedial measures were carried out at 27 premises ; in 2 instances total reconstruction work was carried out, and at 25 premises minor defects remedied.

(c) **Remarks.**

During the course of carrying out the above tests and supervising the work of reconstruction and repair, a total of 1,310 visits to properties were made, and 259 retests carried out.

It may be observed that this branch of the service has received systematic attention throughout the year.

The fees received in connection with drain tests amounted to £68 . 5s. 0d., and this sum was paid into the Borough Fund.

V. Smoke Abatement.

In connection with the factories and works situated within the Borough there are 33 chimneys, 5 of which during the year were not in use.

A total of 61 recorded half-hour observations were made, and in 11 instances black smoke was emitted in excess of the amount permitted by the Bye-laws which prescribe that a nuisance shall be deemed to exist if black smoke is emitted from any one chimney to an aggregate of two minutes within a period of 30 minutes.

The offences recorded were in respect of 4 chimneys. The attention of the management of the firms concerned was directed to this matter, and further observations have shown an improvement.

Smoke preventing apparatus was installed towards the end of the year, in connection with the boiler plant at a brewery, the chimney of which had been observed at times to offend, and since the installation of the plant any undue emission appears to have been obviated.

VI. Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

1.—Houses Let in Lodgings.

The following table shows the number of this class of premises on the Register :—

On the Register at end of 1932 ...	...	...	72
Added to Register during 1933 ...	...	...	6
			—
			78
Removed from the Register during 1933	...		16
			—
Remaining on Register at the end of 1933	...		62
			—

At the 62 houses mentioned above, comprising 563 rooms, some 180 families are accommodated, these families comprising 402 adult persons and 195 children under 10 years of age. Of the total number of families, 16, comprising 15 adults and 12 children, occupy single bed-sitting rooms, while there are in addition 36 individual adult persons who also occupy bed-sitting rooms. In the rest of the cases there is separate accommodation for living and sleeping.

For the purpose of ascertaining that the requirements of the Bye-laws controlling premises of this class are being complied with, 143 visits of inspection were made during the year. It has been found necessary to pay repeated visits to certain of these houses, as the tenants are of such a type that they require constant supervision if the premises are to be maintained in a proper state ; on the other hand there are tenants who require little or no supervision.

Although many persons who formerly resided in “Houses Let in Lodgings” have been provided with houses on the Corporation Estates, there has been no marked decrease in the number of people residing in such houses. The probable explanation of this continued demand for rooms in “Houses Let in Lodgings” is that new families come to reside in the town, while other families who had previously occupied apartments in private houses or had shared the houses of their parents, have for various reasons sought other accommodation.

Rooms in “Houses Let in Lodgings” are clearly unsatisfactory for the needs of growing children. In the case of babies on account of the stairs it means that the baby is necessarily kept indoors most of the day. Older children do not have the free run of a garden. The arrangements for cooking and washing, though the best that can be devised in the circumstances or enforced in accordance with the Bye-laws, are often not really satisfactory and lead to the production of steam and fumes in the living

room. For this reason every effort is made by co-operation with the Housing Management Committee to provide for families with children on the Housing Estates. Some cases, however, for various reasons still present considerable difficulty.

2.—Common Lodging Houses.

There has been no alteration in the Register of premises of this class. There are 2 Registered Premises having prescribed accommodation for 58 lodgers, and in addition, there are 4 other premises which, while they provide temporary lodging accommodation to the poorer classes, have yet not been included for official registration, since there is a doubt whether these premises come within the legal definition of a "Common Lodging House." At these latter premises there is accommodation for 72 lodgers.

Supervision has been maintained throughout the year upon the whole of the above-mentioned premises, and at time of visiting the premises appeared to be well conducted; periodic cleansing and re-decoration was duly carried out as required. Official weekly returns were made by the keepers of the 2 registered Common Lodging Houses, showing the total number of male lodgers accommodated during the year as being 10,436, an average of 28.59 per night (again showing a decrease on previous years).

From general observations during the past few years it appears that there is a decrease in the number of persons using Common Lodging Houses, a fact which may be accounted for by the general trade depression, the absence of any large public works in the area, and the increasing numbers who find accommodation at the Public Assistance Institution.

No cases of infectious disease occurred during the year among the inmates of premises of this type.

3.—Moveable Dwellings.

(Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.)

There are no tents situated in the Borough which are used for habitation, and apart from the caravans used by the showmen and their families at the Statute Fairs in April and October, there are only 4 caravans in the Borough, two of which are only here during the winter months.

All the caravans were visited and, upon inspection, found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition, and upon enquiry no case of illness was discovered amongst the occupants of the caravans.

4.—Hotels, Public Houses, Refreshment Premises and Restaurant Kitchens.

Since Bedford is a market town there are many premises of this class. For the purpose of due attention to the conditions under which the preparation of food is carried out, and supervision of the sanitary arrangements, 76 visits of inspection were paid.

At one large hotel the whole of the sanitary arrangements were reconstructed on modern lines, and a new kitchen built and provided with modern equipment for the preparation of food.

Two large premises were reconstructed and adapted for the use of "Tea Rooms," and the sanitary arrangements in connection therewith were modernised to afford sufficient and suitable accommodation for patrons and employees.

The Public Houses in the neighbourhood were inspected, and many improvements carried out in the sanitary arrangements in connection therewith.

5.—Amusement Houses.

There is 1 Theatre, 4 Cinemas and a number of premises where dances are held, each of which has periodically been visited during the year, in order to ensure that the premises are maintained in a cleanly condition and that the sanitary accommodation is sufficient and suitable.

6.—Offensive Trades.

There are only two classes of offensive trade carried out in the Borough, namely (a) "Fish Frying," which is carried on at 18 premises and 5 moving vans (housed at 3 premises) and (b) the trade of "Rag and Bone Dealers" which is being carried on at 5 separate premises.

The premises at which fish-frying is carried out have been maintained in a cleanly state, and no complaints were received with regard to any nuisance in connection with this class of trade. Fourteen of the premises are fitted up with gas heated ranges of the modern type, and the remaining 4 with coal fuel ranges of good type. One modern gas-fired range was installed in substitution of a coal-fired range of an old-fashioned hood type.

During the summer months special attention was paid to the rag and bone dealers premises with regard to proper storage and removal of bones and offal, and having regard to the exceptionally hot summer this class of business was so conducted as to give little cause for complaint as to any nuisance arising therefrom.

VII. Schools.

There are 4 Endowed Schools under the control of the Harpur Trust, also 8 Elementary Schools and a number of Private Schools.

The drainage systems of the Endowed Schools are now of modern construction with the exception of the unsatisfactory and obsolete trough closets at the Bedford School; it is understood that a scheme is being prepared to modernise the sanitary accommodation at this School.

In 1931 a comprehensive survey and report was made with regard to the drainage and closet accommodation at 6 of the Elementary Schools, and a scheme for improvement recommended to the appropriate Committee. On account of the financial circumstances prevailing at the time, the scheme was left in abeyance, but during the year under review the work of reconstruction of the drainage and closet accommodation was undertaken at two of the schools, namely, Clapham Road School and Queen's Park School.

By arrangement with the Principals of the Private Schools, the drainage and sanitary arrangements in connection with the buildings under their control are tested and reported upon at regular intervals. These are of sound construction, and meet with modern requirements.

VIII. Rag Flock Acts, 1911 & 1928.

There appears to be no appreciable amount of rag flocks used in connection with the trades carried on in Bedford, and at no premises in the area is this commodity manufactured. Under these circumstances no samples of rag flock were procured for purposes of analysis.

IX. Housing.

1.—Statistical Table.

The following table gives the statistics of Housing Work undertaken during the year under review :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	1344
	(b)	Number of inspections including reinspections made for the purpose	... ..	9387
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	781
	(b)	Number of inspections including reinspections made for the purpose	... ..	7122
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	19
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	1210

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers *1208

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a)	By owners	...	Nil
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	...	Nil
-----	--	---	-----	-----

*This figure includes 61 houses inspected in 1932.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(c)—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.				
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	19
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	13
(d)—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

2.—Observations on Statistics.

The 1,344 houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts may be classified as follows :—

(a)—Houses inspected under Housing Acts.				
(1) Reasonably capable of repair	...	...	...	698
(2) Not requiring repairs	...	...	...	64
(3) Totally unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	19
				781
(b)—Houses inspected under Public Health Acts.				
(1) Minor defects	...	...	...	512
(2) Not requiring repairs	...	...	...	51
				563
Grand total	...	...	...	1,344

Of the 698 houses included in (a) (1) above 635 have been reinstated and 63 remained outstanding at the end of the year. There were 18 houses included in the Report of 1931 which are the subject of an improvement scheme. The work in connection with these premises has not yet been carried out, as there has been delay in obtaining conveyance of certain of the houses. The conveyances are not yet completed, but it is anticipated that the improvement scheme will be carried out at an early date.

Of the total of 19 houses in which demolition orders were made, demolition has been carried out in the case of 13, while the remaining 6 are to be demolished in the present year.

Of the 512 houses included in (b) (1) all the notices were complied with.

3.—Housing Conditions.

(a) General Summary.

The following table gives a classified list of the estimated numbers and types of houses in existence at the end of the year 1933. Classes 1—6 include those houses only which were built by private enterprise, Class 7 includes municipal houses.

Class	Type of House.				Number
1.	Large houses in residential areas	...	...	...	1,970
2.	Houses with 6 to 8 rooms	...	...	...	5,530
3.	Houses with 5 rooms (2 bedrooms)	...	...	...	2,125
4.	Houses with 4 rooms (2 bedrooms)	...	...	...	400
5.	Houses with 2 to 3 rooms	...	...	...	20
6.	Houses "Let in Lodgings"	...	...	...	62
7.	Corporation Housing Estates (in Borough only)—				
(a)	(i)	Parlour type, 4 bedrooms	...	...	4
	(ii)	" " 3 bedrooms	...	...	210
(b)	(i)	Non-parlour type 3 bedrooms	...	...	98
	(ii)	" " 2 bedrooms	...	...	6
(c)	(i)	Flats non-parlour type 3 bedrooms	...	...	80
	(ii)	" " " 2 bedrooms	...	...	100
Grand total					10,605

Residential hotels and boarding houses are included in Class 1.

It is observed that a number of the large houses in the residential parts of the town are being converted into flats. Houses of this type are generally in a good state of repair, but from time to time there is a change of ownership or tenancy and in this connection a considerable amount of drainage reconstruction work has been carried out.

The houses included in Class 2 were for the most part built over 40 years ago, and generally appear to be of a sound construction, but in the case of a large number action has been taken under the Housing Acts in order to get necessary repairs carried out. Many of these houses are now becoming the property of their occupiers.

The houses included in Classes 3, 4, and 5 are of much older type than those included in Class 2, and during the past three years have been given special attention followed by appropriate action taken under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930. Some 119 of the 4-roomed type have no secondary means of access to the back yards. With few exceptions, houses of this class have fair-sized gardens or yards. There are only two back-to-back houses in the Borough, and these are to be demolished in 1934. Some 47 houses are situated in courts or yards.

The Houses Let in Lodgings included in Class 6 are usually of the large residential type and are occupied by varying numbers of families. They are reported upon under the section dealing with "Premises controlled by Byelaws."

All of the houses included in the classes given in the preceding table are provided with separate sinks, internal water supply and separate W.C. accommodation, with the exception of the 32 premises shewn in the following table, which indicates the type of accommodation available.

Situation	No. of Houses	Means of disposal of Slop Water	Water Supply	Closet Accommodation
15, 17, 19 Dane Street	3	Gullies in yard	Town supply—3 taps in yard	Separate
1 to 6 Butcher's Yard	6	Gully in yard	1 tap in yard	2 W.C.s to 6 houses
1 to 7 Richbell Cottages	7	Sinks to gully	Taps over sinks	3 W.C.s to 7 houses.
7 to 15 St. John's Place	5	Gullies in yard	3 taps in yard	3 W.C.s to 5 houses
42 to 56 St. Loyes Street	8	Gullies in yard	3 taps in yard	4 W.C.s to 8 houses
60 Kempston Road (1 Rose Cottage)	1	To land ...	Well ...	Separate (Pail closet)
Cottage—Cox's Pits	1	To land ...	Well ...	Separate (Pail closet)
Cottage—Brick Hill Farm	1	To land ...	Well ...	Separate (Pail closet)

The 10 houses situated in Dane Street (3), Butcher's Yard (6), and Cox's Pits (1), are scheduled for demolition.

With regard to Richbell Cottages the property is to be purchased by the Corporation and improvements are to be carried out, including the provision of additional W.C.s.

The 13 houses situated in St. John's Place and St. Loyes Street are "Almshouses," and in view of the number and type of occupants the available accommodation is regarded as sufficient.

Rose Cottage and the cottage by Brick Hill Farm are situated in remote parts of the Borough and for this reason public water supply and connection to the sewer is not available.

(b) **Housing Act 1930.**

(i) *Houses Incapable of repair at reasonable Cost.*

During the year under review 16 houses were formally represented as unfit, 29 houses were demolished as the result of demolition orders made in the year under review or in previous years. Action of a more informal or different nature resulted in the demolition of other houses, either definitely unfit or of low standard as shown in the following table for the period 1931—1933.

This table shows the number of houses definitely unfit or of a low standard formally represented as unfit or actually demolished in each of the years 1931, 1932 and 1933, together with remarks showing the result of the action taken.

Table showing Unfit Houses Demolished or Closed during the years 1931 to 1933.

Year	Situation	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants	Date of Representation	Date of Demolition Order	Remarks
1931	4 London Road	1	5	24-2-31	Not made	Demolished, February, 1934.
	2a St. John's Place	1	4	24-3-31	1-6-31	Demolished, June, 1931.
	48, 50 Castle Hill	2	12	24-2-31	Not made	Demolished, April, 1933.
	R/o 9 St. Cuthbert's Street ...	1	5	1-5-31	Not made	Outhouse—undertaking accepted that premises be not used for habitation.
	3, 4 Ram Yard	2	Nil	9-11-31	21-11-31	Demolished, 3-12-31.
1932	1 Bell Court	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied dwelling—demolished by arrangement, 21-11-31.
	9 to 14 St. Cuthbert's Square	6	17	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 31-3-33.
	3 to 8 St. Cuthbert's Square	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied cottages—demolished, April, 1933.
	52 to 62 Chandos Street ...	6	24	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 25-3-33.
	19, 20 Tavistock Place ...	2	13	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 15-4-33.
	29 Cobden Street	1	3	6-9-32	House closed	Demolished, 23-12-33.
	7 Brace Street	1	6	6-9-32	Not made	House vacated—rendered fit. Re-let, 2 occupants only, [1-8-33.
	81 to 87 Pilcroft Street ...	4	22	6-9-32	10-1-33	Demolished, 13-5-33.
	40 Newnham Street	1	4	Nil	Nil	Dangerous building of low standard—demolished, 31-12-32.
	1 to 7 Castle Hill Cottages ...	7	27	27-2-33	1-6-33	Demolished, 20-11-33.
	1, 2, Ram Yard	2	27	27-2-33	1-6-33	Demolished, 20-11-33.
	27 to 31 All Hallows Lane ...	3	3	1-5-33	6-7-33	Houses vacated, purchased by the Corporation, to be demolished.
1933	34, 36 All Hallows Lane ...	2	7	Nil	Nil	Demolished, June, 1933
	29, 31 Newnham Street ...	2	4	1-5-33	6-7-33	Demolition in abeyance pending re-housing of tenants.
	22 Cauldwell Street	1	4	Nil	Nil	Cost of repairs prohibitive. Owner gave undertaking to demolish—demolished, 1-2-34.
	17 St. John's Street	1	4	3-7-33	7-11-33	House vacated—demolition pending.
	1 Roise Street	1	5	15-9-33	Nil	Demolished, 30-3-34.
	5 to 11 Dane Street	4	13	Nil	Nil	Corporation property, houses of low standard. Demolished for clearance site for erecting Public Building, 6-5-33.

It will be noted that in the three years 50 houses have been demolished, 1 closed, 1 rendered fit, with the consent of the Public Health Committee. The remaining 6 houses will be demolished during 1934.

It will be noted that in the majority of cases the houses were formally represented under the Housing Acts. In some cases, however, the houses were unoccupied and derelict, or were otherwise clearly unfit and were demolished by their owners voluntarily or by agreement without the necessity of formal representation. In 20 cases where demolition was actually undertaken, for one reason or another no formal demolition order was made. Some houses have been included in the list which were demolished apart from either formal or informal action under the Housing Acts, as for example new building or development in the area. All such houses which have been included, though perhaps not bad enough for representations under the Housing Acts, were definitely of a low standard, and on health grounds their demolition was welcomed.

During the 10 years preceding the years included in the table, namely 1921 to 1930, 40 insanitary houses were demolished.

In the original estimate 73 houses were included in the 5 years programme under the 1930 Act, and scheduled for demolition, either because they were themselves unfit and could not be rendered fit at what seemed to be a reasonable cost, or in order that additional light and air might be provided for other houses. Of these 73 houses, 56 have now been dealt with as follows :—43 included in the preceding table have been demolished, 3 also included in the table have been vacated and are to be demolished at an early date, while 10 have been rendered fit, the owners having carried out the necessary works to render the houses fit. The situation of these 10 houses is as follows :—Nos. 7 Brace Street, 37 and 39 Newnham Street, 22 to 30 Greenhill Street, 30 and 32 Chandos Street.

With regard to the remaining 17 houses it is proposed to deal with 13 by demolition in the near future, namely, Nos. 1 to 6 Butchers Yard, 8, 10 Castle Lane, Cottage at Cox's Pits, 6 and 7 Richbell Cottages, 12 and 14 Chandos Street ; while with respect to the 4 other houses, namely Nos. 10 Chandos Street, 22 Dane Street, 18 All Hallows Lane and 42 Castle Lane, whose demolition was to form part of a scheme for improvement of the area in question, it was not found possible to carry out the original scheme or was necessary to modify it and the houses are therefore allowed to remain, the necessary repairs have been effected.

Apart from the estimated 73 houses originally scheduled a total of 11 houses, unfit or of low standard, have been dealt with as follows :—7 have been demolished, 1 has been closed and 3 are to be demolished in the near future. These houses are included in the table and are as follows :—Demolished—40 Newnham Street, 22 Cauldwell Street, 5—11 Dane Street, 1 Roise Street ; Closed—R/o 9 St. Cuthbert's Street ; To be demolished—29 and 31 Newnham Street, and 17 St. John's Street.

The re-housing of displaced tenants is a matter which from time to time presents considerable difficulty. The tenants usually displaced by action taken under the Housing Acts are of the poorer classes who are able

to afford only a very low rent. In this connection I am greatly indebted to the Housing Manager for his valuable services and kind co-operation, and to amicable agreements with private property owners in the arrangements made for suitably rehousing displaced tenants.

During the period under review, 1931 to 1933, families have been rehoused as follows :—

			<i>Families.</i>	<i>No. of occupants</i>
Corporation Estate	...	...	30	153
By arrangement with Private Owners			20	89
			—	—
			50	242
			—	—

(ii) *Houses Capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.*

The matter of ensuring healthy conditions of housing is regarded as being of the utmost importance in a preventive aspect. Special attention, therefore, has again been given to this branch of the Public Health services.

A prescribed programme of houses to be inspected was formulated as usual at the beginning of the year, and for this purpose the experience of a previous general survey of the houses in the Borough was utilised.

Special attention has been paid in the year under review, as in previous years, to the houses which have been built for 50 years or over, and at the end of the year most of the houses of this type had been inspected within a period of five years.

A total of 762 such houses were made the subject of detailed inspection in the year under review. A reasonable standard of fitness was found at 64 of the houses inspected, whilst at the remaining 698 houses much work of repair, cleansing, and renovation was found to be necessary, in order that they might be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. The inspections made were both detailed and comprehensive in character and the works as specified in the notices have in view a high standard of fitness, and in addition the attention of owners is directed to other matters which when carried out greatly increase the “life” of the property.

The average estimated cost of works of repair in respect of each house dealt with amounts to about £25, a fact which indicates that inspection is not of a perfunctory character. In consequence of concentrated action during the past few years, with regard to houses capable of repair, the housing conditions in the older parts of the town have been considerably improved. The procedure of systematic (house-to-house) inspections is to be continued, and a list of houses scheduled for inspection during the year 1934 has been prepared.

The following is a list of houses inspected during the last five years :—

1929	...	...	...	...	114
1930	...	...	...	...	178
1931	...	...	...	...	366
1932	...	...	...	...	618
1933	...	...	...	...	762
					—
					2,038
					—

A list of the houses dealt with during 1933 is given in the following table :—

Houses capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.

Name of Street.				No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses at which defects were found.
All Hallows Lane	...	...	...	1	1
Althorpe Street	...	...	...	7	7
Argyll Street	...	...	...	56	55
Battison Street	...	...	...	35	32
Bedesmans Lane	...	...	...	3	2
Bedesmans Place	...	...	...	23	18
Bower Street	...	...	...	1	1
Brace Street	...	...	...	2	2
Brereton Road	...	...	...	1	1
Britannia Place	...	...	...	10	9
Castle Hill	...	...	...	2	2
Cavendish Street	...	...	...	39	39
Cauldwell Place	...	...	...	1	1
Chandos Street	...	...	...	2	2
Commercial Road	...	...	...	44	39
Costin Street	...	...	...	20	16
Duck Mill Lane	...	...	...	8	8
Farrer Street	...	...	...	18	18
Foster Hill Road	...	...	...	18	18
Ford End Road	...	...	...	3	3
Gadsby Street	...	...	...	23	21
Greenhill Street	...	...	...	12	12
Great Butt Street	...	...	...	32	30
Grey Friars Walk	...	...	...	3	3
Gwyn Street	...	...	...	1	1
Holme Street	...	...	...	33	29
Holt Row	...	...	...	6	5
Howard Street	...	...	...	19	18
King's Place	...	...	...	36	24
Lime Street	...	...	...	1	1

Houses capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost—continued.

Name of Street.				No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses at which defects were found.
Little Butt Street	...	...	...	35	35
Little Grove Place	...	...	...	12	12
Lurke Street	...	...	...	14	13
Mabel Road	...	...	...	3	3
Maitland Street	...	...	...	28	26
Melbourne Street	...	...	...	1	1
Newnham Street	...	...	...	12	8
Peel Street	...	...	...	20	18
Prebend Street	...	...	...	38	38
River Street	...	...	...	10	10
Saint Cuthbert's Street	...	...	...	3	3
Salisbury Street	...	...	...	1	1
The Grove	...	...	...	29	29
Wellington Street	...	...	...	64	60
Western Street	...	...	...	32	23
				<hr/> 762	<hr/> 698

No. of houses in order - 64.

(c) Overcrowding.

The extent to which overcrowding exists is a matter very often difficult to ascertain. Detailed information is obtained in the course of house-to-house inspection under the Housing Act; or when making investigation in connection with infectious diseases. The only other source of information is when in the course of making application for a Corporation house, the person making such application chooses to be quite frank and open with regard to the condition under which he is at present living. Apart from this any special endeavour to ascertain any conditions as to overcrowding is usually met with a studied effort at concealment on the part of the persons interviewed.

At the end of 1932, according to the information known to this Department, there were 56 houses of the 2 and 3 bedroom type classed as overcrowded. This figure was based on the Manchester standard, which is as follows:

(a) Not more than 2.5 persons per bedroom, a child of ten being counted as half a person.

(b) Such accommodation that the parents shall be able to occupy one bedroom, and that otherwise the sexes shall be properly separated as regards persons over ten years of age.

At the end of 1933, on the same standard of overcrowding, on account of additions and deletions there remained 42 houses of the 2 and 3 bedroom type classed as overcrowded.

The following table shows the position in summary form :—

Cases outstanding at end of 1932	...	...	56
New cases discovered during 1933	...	...	33
			—
Total	...	...	89
Cases abated during 1933	...	...	47
			—
Cases remaining at end of 1933	...	...	42
			—

The figures given in the table relate to houses, not families. In the 42 houses remaining at the end of 1933 were accommodated 46 families consisting of a total population of 327 including 250 adults and children over 10, and 77 children under 10.

When overcrowding is due to the occupation of houses by more than one family the remedy is usually easy by granting a municipal house or finding other alternative accommodation for one of the families. On the other hand, when overcrowding is due to the size of a single family occupying a two or three-bedroomed house the remedy is more difficult. In a certain number of cases the family is not inconvenienced by the overcrowding, and would be unwilling to leave their present house for ampler accommodation, necessarily at an increased rent. In the case of those families living in and overcrowding a three bedroomed house there is the difficulty, at present almost insuperable, of obtaining a four bedroomed house. The rent of such houses when privately owned is generally prohibitive, apart altogether from the fact that landlords are usually unwilling to let to large families, and at the present time, apart from 4 houses of parlour type, four bedroomed houses do not exist on the Corporation Estates. Your Public Health Committee at present has included a certain number of 4 bedroomed houses in the next group of houses the building of which is now under consideration. If the scheme is completed the provisions of these four bedroomed houses would help to solve what has been up to the present a very difficult problem.

In the course of the year under review a request was received from the Ministry of Health for further information on the question of overcrowding in order to enable the Ministry to form an opinion as to the need for new houses in the borough. The standard of overcrowding taken by the Ministry was the number of persons which a house of a given size was taken as capable of accommodating for purposes of subsidy under the Housing Act, 1930. The standard is much higher than any standard which up to the present has been in general use with regard to overcrowding, and in it no distinction is made with regard to the age of the occupants. The standard is as follows :—

- (a) 2 bedrooms, not more than 4 persons.
- (b) 3 bedrooms, not more than 5 persons.
- (c) 4 bedrooms, not more than 7 persons.

It is, of course, clear that any house or any part of a house which is overcrowded on the Manchester standard will be overcrowded on the Ministry of Health standard.

If then the higher standard of the Ministry of Health is adopted the following table shows the position with regard to overcrowding so far as it is at present known to the Department. As the investigation was carried out in order to determine the number of families in need of houses, the figures relate to families, not houses.

Type of Dwelling	No. of overcrowded families
Houses of 2 bedrooms	*53
Houses of 3 bedrooms	†47
Rooms in private houses	44
Rooms in Houses Let in Lodgings	87
	<hr/>
	231
	<hr/>

*This figure includes 28 families living under overcrowded conditions on the Manchester Standard.

†This figure includes 14 families living under overcrowded conditions on the Manchester Standard.

In comment on the table just given and in view of information in possession of the Department, it may be said that the most urgent cases for immediate remedy are those 53 overcrowded families living in 2 bed-roomed houses, and the 131 families living in rooms or in houses let in lodgings. Of the families living in 3 bedroomed houses, 12 are regarded as urgent cases, though till a larger number of 4 bedroom houses is provided there is no immediate remedy possible. The best effort will be made to remedy overcrowding in the 184 families whose cases are regarded as urgent by the allocation of municipal houses to remedy this overcrowding, and by arrangements where possible with private landlords so that the best possible use may be made of privately owned accommodation where pre-existing tenants have been granted a municipal house. It cannot, however, be claimed that the completion of the 100 houses at present under construction will suffice for the remedy of all cases of overcrowding that are known, while it is quite clear that a large proportion of cases is at present unknown to this Department.

4.—Rent Restriction Acts.

No applications were received during the year for a certificate of the Sanitary Authority under the above-named Acts, but the tenants of two houses consulted the Sanitary Inspectors with regard to the provision of the law relating to the repairs of houses.

Without having recourse to Statutory action, the owners concerned, upon intimation, complied with the necessary requirements.

With regard to the carrying out of repairs to houses, tenants frequently seek the advice of the Inspectors on matters pertaining to the provisions of these Acts.

During the year further legislation under the above named Acts came into force, affecting the law with regard to the de-controlling of certain classes of houses.

5.—Municipal Housing Estates.

During the year under review the scheme of 232 houses begun in 1932 was finished by the completion of 190 houses, all except 22 of which were outside the then existing Borough boundary, but have since been included by the extension of the boundary. During the year under review another 100 houses were begun, but none were completed by the end of the year.

The Housing Manager has kindly furnished me with the following list of applicants for municipal houses as it stood at the end of the year under review.

Summary of Applications for Houses on the Corporation Estates as at 31st December, 1933.

						No. regarded as urgent
1. <i>Applicants with families in rooms—</i>						
(a) In Bedford	...	...	...	...	119	119
(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	...			...	9	9
(c) Ditto, not working in Bedford...	...			...	3	—
2. <i>Householders with families—</i>						
(a) In Bedford	...	...	...	...	112	40*
(b) In neighbourhood, working in Bedford				...	35	—
(c) At a distance, working in Bedford	...			...	30	30
(d) Out of area, not working in Bedford	...			...	10	—
3. <i>Overcrowded families—</i>						
In houses and flats in Bedford	...	...		...	33	33
4. <i>Applicants with families in Registered Houses</i>						
Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	24	24
5. <i>Applicants without children</i>	...	...	...	...	103	—
6. <i>Single Persons</i>	...	...	...	...	24	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...		...	502	255
					<hr/>	<hr/>

*Estimated number of applicants paying excessive rents.

By comparison with the figures furnished to me by the Housing Manager relating to June, 1933, it will be seen that the number of applicants regarded as urgent at that time was 312. Since that time 184 houses

have been built, which has resulted in the diminution of applicants regarded as urgent from 312 to 255, that is by 57 only. It is thus clear that the building of houses does not reduce the number of applicants by the number of houses built. This may be accounted for in part by the increase in the number of families in the Borough, (an increase which in view of recent changes in the birth rate is higher proportionally than any increase in population), in part by the fact that many persons make application for houses only when there appears some prospect of success, and in part to the fact that new cases of overcrowding are continually being discovered and the persons concerned urged to make application for a house.

6.—Progress of Building since the War.

The following table shows the progress of building since the war :—

Number of Houses built since the War to 31st December, 1933.

Year		Subsidy Private Enterprise		Subsidy Local Authority		Private Enterprise No grant		Conversions etc.		Total per year
1919	.....	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1920	.....	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1
1921	.....	1	...	84	...	3	...	—	...	88
1922	.....	6	...	114	...	3	...	—	...	123
1923	.....	—	...	2	...	24	...	—	...	26
1924	.....	25	...	—	...	47*	...	—	...	72
1925	.....	63	...	—	...	19	...	—	...	82
1926	.....	51	...	40	...	27	...	—	...	118
1927	.....	36	...	32	...	30*	...	—	...	98
1928	.....	36	...	—	...	50*	...	—	...	86
1929	.....	23	...	76	...	50	...	—	...	149
1930	.....	—	...	16	...	70	...	—	...	86
1931	.....	—	...	116	...	63	...	1	...	180
1932	.....	—	...	—†	...	57	...	2	...	59
1933	.....	—	...	22‡	...	110	...	6	...	138
Totals	.....	242		502		553		9		1306

*These figures each include one public house.

†42 houses were built in this year outside the Borough boundary by the Local Authority.

‡168 houses were built in this year outside the Borough boundary by the Local Authority.

X. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1.—Milk.

(a) Source of Supply and Grades.

No milk is produced for sale within the Borough, and the bulk of the supply distributed in the area is produced on farms situated within a few miles of the Borough boundary. Thus one finds that milk is usually delivered within a very short period of time of its production.

For a number of years the bulk of the milk supply has consisted of ordinary raw milk delivered either loose or in bottles to the customers. There appears, however, to be a growing demand for Graded milk, and at present there is a considerable sale of both Certified, Grade A (Tuberculin Tested), and Grade A milk, whilst during the year the sale of Pasteurised milk has been introduced. Grade A milk is now sold at the same price as ordinary raw milk, and on account of the price at which this milk is sold it would seem to be preferred to the higher priced Certified milk. Before 1933 no Pasteurised milk was sold in the Borough, but during the year under review licences were issued to two large dairies and since the introduction of this grade of milk its sale has progressively increased. It may therefore be assumed that the consumption of ordinary raw milk is being thus to a large extent replaced by Graded or Pasteurised milks.

There is also a certain demand for Sterilised milk, and this is supplied by one firm with premises outside the county, by whom it is retailed direct to consumers, or is supplied by wholesale to small shopkeepers in various parts of the town.

(b) Classification of Milk Distributors.

The following table shows the number of purveyors dealing in the different kinds of milk :—

1.	Purveyors of Graded milk only	...	...	...	5
2.	Purveyors of Graded milk and ordinary milk	...	...	...	4
3.	Purveyors of ordinary raw milk	...	...	...	85
4.	Shopkeepers distributing bottled milk only—				
	(a) Sterilised or ordinary milk	...	...	...	35
	(b) Graded milk	...	...	...	17
	Total	...	...	...	146

(c) Registration of Purveyors and Premises.

The following table shows the number of purveyors and premises on the register at the end of the year.

	Registered persons	Registered premises
1. Purveyors with premises in the Borough	61	61
2. Purveyors with premises outside the Borough	33	Nil
3. No. of shopkeepers—bottled milk only	52	Not required
Totals	146	61

(d) Supervision of Dairy Premises and Distribution of Milk Supply.

During the year under review a number of structural developments and improvements have been carried out. One dairy of modern type has been erected at which was installed one of the latest types of pasteurising plant, and distribution of pasteurised milk from this dairy began on January 1st, 1933. Later in the year another large dairy firm changed over from the distribution of raw milk, and after the installation of an approved pasteurising plant also instituted the distribution of pasteurised milk.

At a number of other dairy premises improvements have been effected, new steam boilers having been installed at two premises, and cold storage arrangements in three instances, while in many cases other works of improvement have been carried out, both in relation to the premises and vehicles used for the distribution of the milk.

For the purpose of ensuring that the statutory requirements were being complied with the Sanitary Inspectors during the year paid 352 visits of inspection to dairy premises, and examined the vehicles and utensils used in the distribution of milk.

In connection with the distribution of milk during the year two persons were prosecuted and convicted for the filling and sealing of bottles otherwise than on registered premises.

(e) Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

In addition to samples of graded milk, 46 samples of non-graded milk were procured and submitted for examination. These samples were usually obtained on delivery by various producers to the retailers in the town. At the time of procuring the samples a sediment test of each sample was made for the purpose of demonstrating to the persons concerned evidence of visible dirt in the milk supplied.

If one takes the standard prescribed for Grade A milk as a basis for comparison, which requires that there should not be more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c., 28 of the samples were reported upon as being well within

this standard, 13 did not quite attain this standard, while the remaining 5 had a very high bacterial count. The standard for Grade A milk also requires that there shall be an absence of bacillus coli in 1/100th c.c. The following table shows the presence or absence of bacillus coli in the 46 samples reported upon :—

Not found in 1 c.c.	...	...	...	...	3
Present in 1 c.c.	...	...	...	...	1
Present in 1/10th c.c.	...	...	...	...	7
Present in 1/100th c.c.	...	...	...	...	5
Present in 1/1000th c.c.	...	...	...	...	30
					—
					46
					—

From this table it will be seen that 11 of the samples complied with the Grade A standard with regard to bacillus coli.

The farms from which milk is supplied into the Borough are situated in the outlying districts, and the conduct of milk production at the premises are not under the control of this Authority. A copy of the report upon each sample is sent to the producers concerned, and any adverse reports are specially commented upon. Interviews are held with the producers, and their co-operation invited to ensure the production of clean, wholesome milk. At the same time, since the beginning of the present year, information of the results has been sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the farm is situated.

The bacteriological examination of milk supplies is therefore both interesting and important, and the results obtained may be regarded as on the whole satisfactory. The samples were taken at random from 46 different producers and serve as an indication of the fact that at the farms where milk is produced efforts are being made to conduct the business in a cleanly manner.

No samples were procured for the purpose of examination for evidence of tuberculosis.

(f) **Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.**

In accordance with the provisions of licences granted under the above-named Order, the following graded milk is distributed within the Borough.

- 1. Certified Milk.
- 2. Grade A (Tuberculin Tested).
- 3. Grade A.
- 4. Pasteurised.

The following table shows the average daily amount of the various designated milks distributed during the early part of the present year, together with the corresponding figures for the previous year.

	1933	1934
Certified	45 galls. ...	40 galls.
Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) ...	6 „ ...	27 „
Grade A	123 „ ...	205 „
Pasteurised	213 „ ...	765 „

Seventeen samples of certified milk were procured and submitted for bacteriological examination, in accordance with the schedule furnished by the Ministry of Health. The bacteriologist reported upon 15 of the samples as complying with the requisite standard, whilst the remaining 2 samples did not comply with the prescribed standard, and the attention of the producers concerned was directed to the matter, with the result that subsequent samples from this source were found to be satisfactory.

For the purpose of ensuring that the requirements of the licences granted by the Authority were being complied with, 7 samples of pasteurised milk were procured and submitted for examination. The bacteriologist reported upon 6 of the samples as being of requisite standard and one only which did not so comply. In this case appropriate action was taken with marked improvement in subsequent samples.

2.—Meat and Other Foods.

(a) Meat.

Mr. J. F. Wilkinson is primarily responsible for the work of inspection of meat and other foods, and is assisted by Mr. J. N. Martin ; both these inspectors possess the special certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for meat inspection, and are also engaged in general sanitary administration, for which they both hold qualifying certificates.

The duties arising in connection with the inspection of the meat supply within the Borough receives special attention, and under the present arrangement every endeavour is made to ensure that all animals slaughtered in the Borough are duly examined before being exposed for sale to the public. At least three afternoons each week are devoted to regular systematic visits to the slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection; and in consequence of occasional slaughter, due to fluctuations in trade, marketing conditions and emergencies, many additional visits on other days of the week, including Sundays, are of necessity carried out.

Systematic supervision is maintained of the meat shops in the town for the purpose of inspection of imported meat and home killed meat not slaughtered in the Borough.

The number of carcasses and offals inspected in the course of systematic visits of inspection to the slaughterhouses and other meat shops in the borough during the year was as follows:—

Cattle	1,412
Sheep	5,939
Pigs	6,358
Total	13,709

The following is a classified table showing the various kinds of meat condemned, reasons for condemnation, and the amounts destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

Home Killed Meat.								
Reason for Condemnation	No. of Animals affected			Amounts Condemned				
				Whole carcase and offal	Weight lbs.	Part carcase and offal	Weight lbs.	Total amount lbs.
Tuberculosis	Beasts	...	18	3	1430	15	1302	2732
	Pigs	...	69	8	890	61	667	1557
			—					—
			87					4289
Other Diseases	Beasts	...	21	6	1580	15	224	1804
	Sheep	...	21	3	90	18	140	230
	Pigs	...	26	3	119	23	154	273
			—					—
			68					2307
Injury ...	Beasts	...	2	—	—	2	102	102
	Sheep	...	1	—	—	1	12	12
	Pigs	...	6	—	—	6	170	170
			—					—
			9					284
	Total	...	164				Total	6880
Imported Meat.								
Unsound ...	Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	1049
	Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
								—
					Total	...	...	1088
	Total amount of Home and Imported Meat							7968

(b) Other Foods.

The activities of the Inspectors are also directed to other foods in course of preparation or deposited for sale, and the premises where such food is prepared or sold are regularly inspected.

In consequence of these inspections the following foodstuffs were found to be unsound and were destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	140lbs.
Tinned Goods			...	...	...	192lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	12lbs.
Farm Produce			...	...	...	8lbs.
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	352lbs.

All foodstuffs condemned were destroyed at the Refuse Destructor Works.

In addition, quantities of unsaleable fish, fruit and vegetables are sent by the tradespeople concerned for destruction at the Refuse Destructor Works.

3.—Food Premises.

(a) General Inspection.

The following table shows the various classes of premises where food is prepared and the number of visits paid to each during the year :—

Class of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections
Meat Shops, Stalls and Vehicles ...	61	343
Fish Shops, Stalls and Vehicles ...	34	174
Fish-frying Premises and Vehicles ...	21	35
Dairy Premises and Vehicles ...	61	352
Grocery Premises, Shops and Vehicles ...	146	90
Fruit Shops, Stalls and Vehicles ...	75	250
Ice Cream Premises and Vehicles ...	50	64
Restaurant Premises and Tea Rooms ...	31	75
Chocolate, Sweet and Biscuit Premises	3	7
Bakehouses ...	46	180
Cold Stores ...	1	19

(b) Dairies.

Dairies have been already dealt with under the heading of Milk Supply.

(c) Slaughter Houses.

The number of slaughter houses in the Borough remained as in the previous year, namely 18 private slaughter houses, four being “Registered” whilst the remaining 14 are subject to yearly licence.

In the course of the visits paid to the slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection, supervision is also maintained to ensure that the requirements of the Byelaws and the provisions of the Meat Regulations are adhered to. The premises generally have been maintained in a cleanly condition, and where necessary minor improvements and repairs incidental to maintenance have been carried out.

Before the passing of the “Slaughter of Animals Act,” which came into force on January 1st, 1934, there were no compulsory powers in force in the Borough with regard to the stunning of animals by means of mechanically-operated instruments, but a number of the butchers had used the Captive Bolt instrument for the past few years, and during the year under review one butcher had installed an electrical stunning apparatus. The Act makes obligatory the use of a mechanically-operated instrument for slaughter or preliminary stunning before slaughter in the case of cattle and pigs, while in the case of sheep the decision as to whether such an obligation shall be enforced rests with the local authority. Your Council

considered the matter towards the end of the year under review and decided for the present not to apply the Act to sheep but to postpone the matter for further consideration in six months time. At the time of writing the matter is again under consideration.

(d) **Shops, Stalls and Vehicles.**

The premises included under this heading comprise all types of shops, stalls and vehicles utilised for the purpose of preparation, storage and distribution of foodstuffs.

Inspections of these premises have been maintained, and it is satisfactory to report that the premises and utensils have been kept in a cleanly state and in the course of preparation of meat products for sale every endeavour is made to guard against contamination. In the absence of universal adoption of fixed glass windows to the butchers' shops, there is some risk of contamination of the meat when exhibited for sale, although the shop keepers do take some measures to avoid such contamination when adverse weather conditions prevail.

In most of the meat, fish and game shops cold storage is installed on the premises, whilst the remaining few shops, when necessary, use the "Cold Stores."

To obviate any nuisance, suitable accommodation is insisted upon for the storage of refuse pending periodic removal.

(e) **Markets.**

There are three markets held in Bedford, which are as follows :—

(1) An open market held on the Market Hill on ground at the rear of St. Paul's Church abutting on to High Street ; the usual market day is Saturday, but a few stalls are also erected and commodities sold on Wednesday of each week.

(2) The cattle market in Horne Lane, which is also usually held on Saturdays.

(3) The egg and poultry and produce market, also situated in Horne Lane, which is held both on Wednesdays and Saturdays each week. At these latter premises there is an egg packing and grading station under the National Marketing Board, at which a large number of eggs are dealt with weekly.

With regard to the stalls on the Market Hill, in addition to the sale of general goods, there are many from which are sold various articles of food, the number of food stalls being as follows :—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Groceries and Provisions				...	...	3
Confectionery and Biscuits				...	...	3
Sweets and Ice Cream	...		...	...	...	8
Café-Buffer	...	...	...	...	...	1

In the course of frequent visits of inspection it is found that the market is well patronised by the general public, and evidently meets a popular demand. There are however, from an hygienic point of view, certain unsatisfactory features, since, owing to the proximity of the stalls to the adjoining streets, and the concentration of vehicular traffic incidental to "Market Day," there is necessarily some risk of the contamination of foodstuffs from blowing dust and other causes.

The provision of a covered market for the sale of foodstuffs might be considered preferable.

(f) **Bakehouses.**

At the end of the period under review there were 46 premises in use and occupation as bakehouses, none of which are within the category known as "underground bakehouse." Structural improvements on a large scale were carried out at one large bakehouse and electric ovens installed, whilst at other premises minor improvements were effected, consisting principally of relaying of floors, additional ventilation and the painting of walls and ceilings in place of limewashing. A total of some 180 visits of inspection have been made to premises of this class. Two notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, with regard to contraventions of the Factory and Workshop Acts, to the effect that periodic limewashing was overdue. Upon intimation to the occupiers concerned the matters were at once put right. The premises generally have been kept in a cleanly condition, and the statutory requirements duly complied with.

(g) **Ice Cream.**

Registration is not required of persons or premises with regard to the manufacture and distribution of Ice Cream, but nevertheless it is regarded as an important food commodity for which the demand appears to be increasing. Thus effective steps have been taken with regard to this matter to ascertain the extent to which this business is carried on in the area, and it was found that there are 25 premises at which it is made. Ice cream is on sale at most restaurants, tea rooms and sweet shops, and is also distributed, both pre-packed and in loose condition, from vehicles of various descriptions patrolling the streets and recreation grounds. The unusually hot summer encouraged this class of trade, to which special attention was given to ensure that ice cream is produced under satisfactory conditions and the business generally conducted in a cleanly manner.

XI. Adulteration of Food.

1.—Milk.

The supervision of the milk supplies is a matter of the utmost importance on account of its food value for infants and young children.

There are 146 individual registered purveyors and their employees who are engaged daily in the distribution of milk to the public, so that it may be readily realised that the Food and Drugs Inspector must devote a considerable amount of time to the duties in this connection if adequate supervision is to be maintained.

For the purpose of ensuring that the milk is of a satisfactory standard of quality, as a matter of almost daily routine informal samples are obtained and examined by means of the Gerber Test in the laboratory of the Department, and 403 such samples were procured and tested during the year, in addition to the 36 formal samples and 3 informal samples which were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Nine formal samples were reported upon adversely and legal proceedings taken in respect of 7 samples, the results of which are given in the table. With regard to the remaining two formal samples, there did not upon investigation appear to be any wilful adulteration on the part of the vendor, and in consequence no legal action was taken.

In the case of 3 informal samples, 2 were reported upon as being deficient in fat, but upon investigation it appeared that there was no adulteration, and subsequent samples from the same sources were found to be above the legal standard.

It may be noticed that roughly 30% of the milk samples submitted to the Public Analyst were reported upon as being adulterated. A brief explanation of the procedure followed with regard to the sampling of milk will indicate the reason for this apparently high percentage of adulteration.

The Gerber test enables the quality of milk to be determined in a large number of samples. Those samples found to be well above the legal standard need not be submitted for formal analysis, while in the case of those samples found by the Gerber test to be below the standard, formal samples are, when necessary, procured and submitted for formal analysis by the Public Analyst. Thus the 35 samples submitted to the Public Analyst were in consequence of previous informal action, which had shown the possibility of wilful adulteration.

The milk supplied to the school children in connection with the Mayor's Fund and School Milk Clubs, is periodically and systematically sampled, and of the 403 samples tested by the Gerber method during the

year 59 samples were procured from this source to ensure that the milk supplied to the school children is of satisfactory quality.

As a result of testing of milk by the Gerber method, 70 of the 403 samples were found to be below the legal standard, and appropriate action was taken in accordance with the merits of each case, either by investigation and informal advice or by the procuring of further samples for submission to the Public Analyst.

2.—Other Foods.

Each of the 50 samples of the various foods submitted to the Public Analyst was reported upon as not being adulterated.

3.—Tables.

The nature and number of the samples submitted is shown in the following table ; a separate table is also given showing the adulteration found and action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

Table of Samples Taken.

Commodity	No. of Samples			No. Genuine			No. Adulterated		
	Formal	Inf'l	Total	Formal	Inf'l	Total	Formal	Inf'l	Total
Milk	36	3	39	27	1	28	9	2	11
Butter		4	4		4	4			
Cocoa		1	1		1	1			
Condensed Milk ...		3	3		3	3			
Custard Powder... ..		1	1		1	1			
Currants		1	1		1	1			
Candied Peel		1	1		1	1			
Dried Fruit		1	1		1	1			
Ham and Egg Paté ...		1	1		1	1			
Jam (Raspberry) ...		1	1		1	1			
Lard		3	3		3	3			
Lemon Curd		2	2		2	2			
Licquorice Powder ...		1	1		1	1			
Margarine		6	6		6	6			
Malt Extract and Cod Liver Oil		1	1		1	1			
Meat Pie		1	1		1	1			
Mincemeat		1	1		1	1			
Medicinal Prescriptions		3	3		3	3			
Parrish's Food		1	1		1	1			
Rum		1	1		1	1			
Sausages—Pork		3	3		3	3			
Beef		3	3		3	3			
Seidlitz Powder		1	1		1	1			
Sultanas		1	1		1	1			
Tinned Cream		2	2		2	2			
Tea		1	1		1	1			
Tinned Peas		1	1		1	1			
Wine—Orange		1	1		1	1			
Raisin		1	1		1	1			
Whiskey		1	1		1	1			
	36	52	88	27	50	77	9	2	11

Particulars of action taken with regard to Adulterated Samples.

Serial No. of Sample		Commodity	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
Formal	Informal			
A189		Milk	6.6% deficient in fat	Case investigated. No apparent wilful adulteration.
A195		Milk	2.3% added water	
	A207	Milk	3.3% deficient in fat	Prosecuted. Case dismissed on legal grounds.
	A208	Milk	16.6% deficient in fat	
A219		Milk	6.6% abstracted fat	Case investigated. No apparent wilful adulteration. Subsequent samples genuine.
A244		Milk	5.1% added water	
A254		Milk	8.2% added water	Prosecuted and fined £2. Proceedings taken against Producer. Samples A254 A259.
A255		Milk	11.7% added water	
			5.0% abstracted fat	
A256		Milk	12.3% added water	
			5.6 abstracted fat	
A258		Milk	2.5% added water	
A259		Milk	2.1% added water	

4.—Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food), Regulations, 1925—1927.

Of the 88 samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year, a number of samples of various commodities likely to contain added preservatives were included, but none of the samples were reported upon as containing any added preservative.

5.—Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

There were no premises in the Borough during the year where this commodity was manufactured or sold.

6.—Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923—1927.

Three samples of condensed milk were submitted to the Public Analyst during the year.

Each sample was reported upon as being genuine, and the requirements under the Regulations as to labelling duly complied with.

7.—Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923—1927.

Under these regulations no action was taken during the year with regard to procuring and examination of samples.

8.—Merchandise Marks Acts, 1926.

For the purpose of ensuring that the Orders in Council made under the above-named Acts are being complied with, 372 visits were made to the various shops, market stalls and vehicles at which the commodities referred to in the Orders are exhibited and sold. There appears to be from time to time a laxity on the part of vendors with regard to appropriate labelling, particularly in the case of fruit, but after being duly cautioned more rigid attention was paid to the requirements with regard to proper labelling.

XII. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1.—General Statistics.

The following tables show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases, and the distribution of cases notified under age groups.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1933.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital*	Total Deaths Registered.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever	137	119	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	2	—
Puerperal Fever	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Pneumonia	88	2	20
Erysipelas	10	3	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	1
Chickenpox	84	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—

*Reference is to Borough Isolation Hospital only.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease of which information was received otherwise than by notification.

	Information received from Head Teachers	Information received from Health Visitors		Total	Total Deaths Registered
		Under 5 years	Over 5 years		
Measles	380	84	16	480	—
Whooping Cough	34	18	—	52	—
Mumps	3	—	—	3	—

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of infectious disease notified according to age :—

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1933.

DISEASE	Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total at all ages
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	2	4	9	8	65	28	7	11	2	1	...	137
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	2	1	1	2	...	7	1	3	16	17	22	16	88
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	5	...	10
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox	2	2	2	4	6	39	25	2	1	1	...	...	84
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	6	11	4	7	...	30
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	2	1	9
Totals	8	6	8	17	14	116	55	19	51	25	38	17	374

2.—Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox were notified during the year.

3.—Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified after allowing for revision of diagnosis was 137, a slight increase over the number for the previous year, namely 130. The case rate per thousand was 3.36, which may be compared with the case rate for England and Wales of 3.21. It will be seen that the rates for the Borough and for the country as a whole were almost identical.

The following table shows the prevalence of scarlet fever in Bedford during the past 32 years.

1902	.....	99	1918	.....	76*
1903	.....	57	1919	.....	120*
1904	.....	57	1920	.....	127
1905	.....	145	1921	.....	97
1906	.....	218	1922	.....	115
1907	.....	72	1923	.....	47
1908	.....	65	1924	.....	18
1909	.....	75	1925	.....	49
1910	.....	66	1926	.....	229
1911	.....	107	1927	.....	197
1912	.....	135	1928	.....	143
1913	.....	306	1929	.....	119
1914	.....	101*	1930	.....	58
1915	.....	131*	1931	.....	46
1916	.....	43*	1932	.....	130
1917	.....	23*	1933	.....	137

*Military cases omitted.

Examination of the table just given shows that during the last 32 years scarlet fever has shown a periodicity of approximately 7 years. The years of greatest prevalence have been the years 1906, 1913, 1920, 1926, 1933. In the intervals between the peak years the number of cases has fallen to a figure which is a mere fraction of that of the years of greatest incidence. Should the disease exhibit the same behaviour in the near future as it has done in the past we may expect a decline in the prevalence of the disease during the course of the next few years. It may at the same time be remarked that the number of cases in the two years 1932 and 1933 is a good deal lower than the numbers occurring during the same length of time in three out of the four preceding periods of maximum prevalence, namely in 1905-6, 1912-4, 1926-7, while it is slightly higher than the number occurring in 1919-20. The series is not long enough to enable one to say whether one is witnessing a real decline in prevalence in the disease or whether the result is due to chance on account of the shortness of the series.

During the year under review as usual the maximum prevalence occurred in the third quarter of the year, the figures for the successive quarters being 14, 12, 28 and 83. The incidence of the disease continued high over a period extending from the last week of September to the second week in December, the weeks showing the greatest number of cases being those ending October 7th, November 25th and December 9th, with 13, 15, and 10 cases respectively.

The number of cases occurring in the elementary school population of the Borough was 53, and of these the greatest number occurred in the last quarter of the year, the numbers for successive quarters being 5, 4, 16 and 28. The school which was most heavily infected was the Pearcey Road School, which had in all 19 cases, all of which occurred between 27th September and 14th December. Of these 19 cases, 11 occurred in one class, and of these 11, 9 occurred in a period of 8 days, from September 27th to October 4th. The cases in this school occurring in other classes, 8 in number, occurred scattered in different classes over a prolonged period till the beginning of December. During the period of greatest prevalence of disease the school was visited daily by the Health Visitor, who examined the children in the affected class, and any suspected children in other classes, and recommended the exclusion from school of doubtful or suspicious cases. She also called at the homes of children who were absent from school without a perfectly definite and satisfactory reason in order to ascertain the cause of absence. It is a well-known fact that scarlet fever can often be conveyed by carriers who present but slight symptoms of illness, perhaps nothing more than a slight sore throat or a cold. In consequence it was advised that children presenting even such slight symptoms should remain away from school till the complete disappearance of symptoms and the restoration of health. In dealing with an epidemic it is probably as important to limit the possibilities of infection of these potential carriers as to isolate definite cases of the disease. In the course of her visits the Health Visitor was able to discover and secure removal to hospital of one definite case which the mother was evidently doing her best to conceal, because she did not wish her child to be removed to hospital, and was able to give advice as to keeping children away from school in many cases of the more doubtful type mentioned above.

Eighteen cases occurred among the children in an institution in the town. The institution has normally from forty to fifty children so that the number of cases occurring represents a very serious epidemic. The first of these cases was notified on October 1st, and the second on November 6th, and cases continued to occur in the Home till December 5th. In addition to the children one of the staff was also infected. The first case was treated in the Isolation Hospital, but later, when the number of cases increased, part of the Home was separated for treatment of the cases, and the patients were transferred back to the Home from the Isolation Hospital.

4.—Diphtheria.

Diphtheria continues to be almost absent from the borough. The number of cases notified after making allowance for revision of diagnosis was 3. This corresponds to a case rate of .07 per thousand, which may be compared with 1.18 per thousand for England and Wales.

The following table shows the number of cases of diphtheria that occurred during the last ten years. It will be seen that with only a few exceptions no cases have occurred in the Borough since 1930.

1924	...	...	...	...	33
1925	...	...	...	...	41
1926	...	...	...	...	64
1927	...	...	...	...	23
1928	...	...	...	...	28
1929	...	...	...	...	16
1930	...	...	...	...	13
1931	...	...	...	...	1
1932	...	...	...	...	4
1933	...	...	...	...	3

There must be some doubt as to the correctness of diagnosis in one of the three cases notified in 1933. There was a history of sore throat and some three weeks later a swab was taken by the patient's family doctor which showed the presence of bacilli morphologically resembling diphtheria bacilli. Before it was possible to take further swabs for more exhaustive examination the suspicious bacilli had disappeared from the throat. The two remaining cases occurred in a family of four children who had recently come from Carlisle. There was a history of sore throat shortly before in the case of both the other children, who were swabbed. One of these yielded a positive culture of diphtheria bacilli, while the other was negative. There can be little doubt that the family brought the infection with them from Carlisle.

5.—Enteric Fever.

Two cases of enteric fever were notified during the year.

In one case it appeared almost certain that the disease was contracted while the patient was on a visit away from Bedford. Agglutination results were confusing on account of anti-typhoid inoculation during the war, but these results, together with the clinical history, made it probable, though perhaps not quite certain, that the patient was suffering from an attack of paratyphoid B.

In the other case the patient was when notified an inmate of the Bedford Prison. It appeared from the history that he was infected before admission to the Prison. He was suffering from true typhoid.

6.—Pneumonia.

The regulations governing the notification of infectious diseases require the notification of acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia. During the year 88 cases of pneumonia were notified as compared with 91 in 1932. The number of cases of pneumonia notified varies in relation to the prevalence of influenza, not only on account of increase in influenzal pneumonia but also on account of increase in other forms of pneumonia during the periods when influenza is epidemic. 20 deaths were registered as due to pneumonia in 1933, the same number as in 1932. In the classification of deaths cases of influenzal pneumonia would be classified as deaths from influenza and not from pneumonia.

7.—Measles.

Measles was epidemic during the year under review. The following table shows the number of cases of which information was obtained during 1933 and the three preceding years.

	1930	1931	1932	1933
Number notified by Head Teachers	115	141	13	380
Number discovered by Health Visitors—				
(a) School age	49	13	—	16
(b) Under 5	61	21	2	84
Totals	225	175	15	480

Measles tends to appear in epidemic form approximately every two years in this Borough. It will be seen that the last period of epidemic prevalence was in 1930-1931, when the time of prevalence was prolonged, namely, from June, 1930, to May, 1931. In contrast to its former behaviour in the year under review the epidemic ran a shorter course beginning in February and ending in July. The great majority of cases of which information was obtained occurred in the Infants' Departments of the Elementary Schools. In order to obtain the earliest possible information of the occurrence of cases the elementary schools in which the disease was prevalent were visited daily by the Health Visitors. The homes of absentees were visited, a large proportion of which proved to be cases of measles, and in these cases it was accordingly possible to give early advice as to nursing and management of the illness and prevention of complications. The isolation hospital was rendered available for the treatment of severe cases on the recommendation of the doctor in attendance. In view of the fact that the average housing conditions in the town are good, that there is but little serious overcrowding, and that the mothers are able and willing to look after their children well it may be said that measles is a less severe disease in Bedford than it is apt to be where environmental conditions of housing, overcrowding and parental care are on a lower level. Two deaths were registered as due to measles.

8.—Whooping Cough.

Whooping cough was less prevalent during 1933 than in the previous year. In all, information was received of 52 cases, of which 34 were reported by the Head Teachers and 18 by the Health Visitors. The total number of cases reported may be compared with 213 in 1932.

9.—Influenza.

Influenza occurred in epidemic form in the early part of the year under review. The total number of deaths registered as due to influenza was 27, which may be compared with 28 in 1932. Of the total, 21 were registered in the first quarter, and 1, 0 and 2 in the succeeding quarters (the difference in the total being due to the fact that the figures given quarterly are provisional only, subject to revision by the Registrar General on account of adjustments for residence and other reasons). The number of deaths occurring in Bedford corresponds to a death rate of 0.66 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 0.57 for England and Wales. The death rate from influenza is frequently higher in Bedford than in the country as a whole, probably in large part on account of the large proportion of old persons in Bedford.

10.—Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Puerperal Pyrexia denotes a condition of raised temperature occurring within 21 days of childbirth or miscarriage, cases of Puerperal Fever being excluded from the definition. Puerperal Fever includes those cases of generalised blood infection which occur as the result of childbirth, while the causes of Puerperal Pyrexia may be quite unconnected with childbirth. The distinction, however, is not always maintained in notifications.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year (excluding one case subsequently notified as puerperal fever). One of these followed a miscarriage, the other the birth of a full-time child. The patients were in both cases non-residents, and notifications were from an institution in the town when the birth or miscarriage took place.

Five cases of puerperal fever were notified. In only one case did the notification relate to a borough resident, who was removed to an institution for treatment after birth of her child at home. In the remaining 4 cases notifications were from the institution to which the patients had been removed for treatment after birth of the child at home outside the district.

11.—Other Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

One case of cerebro-spinal fever was notified in a child aged 9 months. The patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital and died within 4 days of admission.

No cases of poliomyelitis or polioencephalitis and no cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified.

12.—Schick and Dick Tests and Artificial Immunisation.

No work has been carried out by this department in the matter of artificial immunisation.

13.—Vaccinations.

No vaccinations were carried out by your Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

XIII. Disinfection and Disinfestation.

1.—Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The disinfection of premises, clothing, bedding, etc., is carried out as a matter of systematic routine practice in connection with each case of notifiable disease, immediately after the removal of the patient to hospital, or, if the patient is nursed at home, immediately after intimation is received from the medical practitioner attending the patient of freedom from infection.

With regard to tuberculosis, upon receipt of intimation from the Health Visitor as to the removal to Sanatorium or death of a patient, disinfection is carried out.

Requests are frequently made for disinfection after death from other diseases. In the case of cancer this is carried out free of charge, but in other cases a nominal fee is charged.

The following table shows the number of disinfections in connection with the various classes of diseases.

	Rooms	Articles of Bedding, Clothing, &c.
Notifiable Infectious Diseases ...	154	12,150
Tuberculosis	43	2,550
Cancer and Other Diseases ...	38	2,325
	<hr/> 235	<hr/> 17,025

A total of £3 5s. 0d. was paid into the Borough Fund on account of disinfections carried out on request.

The Sanitary Inspectors made a total of 229 visits with regard to the investigation of cases of infectious diseases, and disinfections in connection therewith.

2.—Disinfestation.

The disinfestation of verminous premises is a matter to which considerable attention has been given. Where cases of infestation are discovered in the course of house-to-house inspection under the Housing Acts, upon report from the Housing Manager, Health Visitors, or on complaint from the tenants remedial measures are immediately taken. The most prevalent infestation is that of "Bugs." In this case the co-operation of the property owner is requested, skirting boards and all suspected superficial woodwork are taken down and the walls stripped of paper and badly infested bedding usually burnt. Systematic spraying

with an effective insecticide is then adopted. After the initial spraying, subsequent spraying is carried out until all traces of the vermin have disappeared. The woodwork is then replaced and the walls of the rooms distempered. During the course of carrying out this work the tenants are called upon to take an active part in the eradication of the vermin, and advantage is taken of the opportunity to impress upon them the importance of keeping the house and bedding, etc., in a clean state.

Verminous conditions were dealt with at 73 houses during the year, comprising a total of 207 rooms.

XIV. Isolation Hospitals.

1.—Fever.

Cases of scarlet fever and diptheria are removed to the Isolation Hospital, except where satisfactory isolation and treatment can be maintained at home.

(a) Scarlet Fever.

The following table shows the number of cases of scarlet fever admitted and discharged during the year :—

No. of scarlet fever cases remaining in hospital at end of 1932	...	...	...	...	...	20
No. admitted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	119
No. died in hospital during the year	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. discharged during the year	...	...	...	...	...	114
No. remaining in hospital at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	25

Of the 137 cases notified after correction for revision of diagnosis, 119 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, as compared with the same number in 1932. Of this number 50 were males and 69 females.

The following table shows the classification of the cases in 1933 and previous years. As a rough guide in determining the initial severity of a case, a temperature of 101° on admission is taken as the dividing line between mild and moderately severe and 103° as the line between the moderately severe and severe. The classification for previous years is given for comparison.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Total cases	104	46	37	119	119
Mild	71	33	30	74	55
Moderately severe	25	13	7	36	45
Severe	8	1	0	8	11
Uncertain on account of late admission	—	—	—	1	8
Complicated	23	9	4	35	32

It will be seen from the table that the proportion of severe and moderately severe cases was considerably higher than in the former years recorded. The number of cases classified as severe or moderately severe exceeded those classified as mild.

Of the total of 119 cases, 32 presented complications sufficiently serious for note, a proportion almost identical with that of 1932. As might be expected the proportion of complications is greater in the severe and moderately severe cases than in the mild cases, as the following table shows :—

Type of Cases						Total number	Number showing complications	
Mild	...	...	...	...	...	55	...	13
Moderately severe	...	...	...	...	...	45	...	13
Severe	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	4
Uncertain severity	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	2

The following table shows the actual complications present. It will be noted that the complications taken separately made a higher total than the actual number of cases on account of the fact that in several cases more than one complication was present.

Complication	Number				Remarks
Cervical Adenitis	...	19	...	...	In three cases operation was necessary on account of suppuration of the glands.
Arthritis	4	...	
Nephritis	10	...	Some of the cases classified as nephritis were very mild and merely had albuminuria for a few days without other symptoms.
Otitis media	...	14	...	...	In one case operation of incision of ear drum was performed.

No deaths took place from scarlet fever in the year under review.

In my report for 1932 I mentioned the occurrence of relapses in a proportion of cases, a very troublesome matter. In the year under review, however, I am glad to say that only 2 relapses occurred. In each case the initial attack was mild ; in one case the relapse was also mild, and in the other case of moderately severe character. The relapses occurred on the seventh and eighth days respectively. The occurrence of relapses is a well-recognised phenomenon in scarlet fever and they are usually stated to occur in rather less than 1 per cent of all cases.

In the treatment of scarlet fever, scarlatinal antitoxin is given intramuscularly in the treatment of the more severe cases. There can be no doubt that when given early antitoxin usually causes a rapid disappearance or improvement of symptoms, and it is also usually stated to prevent the occurrence of complications. Antitoxin was given in all in 24 cases of which the classification was as follows:—5 severe, 16 moderately severe, and 3 mild. The number of these cases which presented complications was 7, so that it is not possible to detect in these figures any effect in the prevention of complications ; on the other hand, since the number of cases is small, and since antitoxin is given usually in severe or moderately severe cases which are more liable to complications, it is not possible to state on the basis of the figures that antitoxin had no influence over the prevention of complications.

At the time when scarlet fever was prevalent in the last quarter of the year the incidence of other infectious diseases in the town was low, so that it was possible to accommodate all the cases without serious overcrowding at the hospital. The number of beds in the hospital of the standard of the Ministry of Health is 42. The maximum number of patients in the hospital at any one time was 36, of which 33 were scarlet fever and 3 diphtheria (including one carrier).

The average duration of stay of patients suffering from scarlet fever in hospital was 31.7 days. It will be remembered that some cases were discharged to an Institution while not yet free from infection.

(b) **Diphtheria.**

Three cases notified as diphtheria were admitted during the year. Two of these were members of the same family who were suffering from clinical diphtheria of mild type, while another child of the family was admitted as a carrier, without being notified as diphtheria. The third case of notified diphtheria was notified as the result of a somewhat doubtful bacteriological examination, and had no symptoms on admission.

The average duration of stay of the notified cases was 23 days and of the carrier 13 days.

(c) **Typhoid.**

Two cases were admitted, one of the two being typhoid, the other probably of paratyphoid B. In neither case was the disease of severe character. The average duration of stay was 17.8 days.

(d) **Other Diseases.**

The following tables shows the other diseases admitted :—

Disease			Number of cases		Average duration of stay in days		Remarks
Measles	...	...	12	...	29.5	...	
Erysipelas	...	...	3	...	13.3	...	
Pertussis	...	...	2	...	102	...	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	1	...	4	...	Died in hospital.
Impetigo	...	...	1	...	19	...	
Tonsillitis	...	...	1	...	10	...	Removed for observation on suspicion of scarlet fever.
Streptococcal inflammation of throat			1	...	11	...	Removed on suspicion of diphtheria.
No appreciable disease....			2	...	5	...	One, a baby of 8 months, admitted with her mother suffering from scarlet fever. The other admitted on suspicion of scarlet fever.

The twelve cases of measles were admitted on account of bad housing conditions or the inability of the mother to nurse the child adequately at home. The patients were mostly babies or quite young children. In three cases broncho-pneumonia was present as a complication, in one case bronchitis, while in the remaining cases no chest complication was present. All the children did well, and I think in one or two cases removal to hospital was certainly the means of saving the life of the child. It must be remembered that notwithstanding the apparent triviality of the disease in older children under good housing conditions, yet in babies and younger children where housing conditions are bad measles still ranks as a cause of high mortality. Removal to hospital in such cases is amply justified.

The two cases of pertussis or whooping-cough who were admitted on account of bad home conditions were members of the same family, children aged 5 and 4 respectively, the disease being complicated by broncho-pneumonia in one case and bronchitis in the other. Though one child was very ill indeed on admission, both children did well. They were kept in the hospital for a prolonged period on account of some persistent bronchitis in one child.

The case of cerebro-spinal fever admitted occurred in a child of nine months old. In spite of repeated lumbar puncture and intrathecal injections of anti-meningococcal serum the child died 4 days after admission.

(e) **Return Cases.**

Return cases are defined as cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria occurring in the same house as a patient discharged from hospital or released from home isolation within a period of 28 days from such discharge or release. It cannot in all cases be certain that the patient discharged is in reality the source of infection, nor is the possibility of infection limited to the same house or the period of 28 days, so that such a definition is necessarily somewhat arbitrary. In spite of every care a certain proportion of return cases are bound to occur in connection with every fever hospital. Each return case is made the subject of careful enquiry. It is now realised that the desquamation or peeling after scarlet fever is not infectious. It is, however, of great importance to ensure that all patients are free from nasal or ear discharge, or sores about the face before discharge. Even so it is frequently found on making enquiry that a patient sent home free from discharge of every sort has developed a "cold" after arrival at home, and such renewal of discharge is an indication of the recrudescence of infection.

The following list gives details of return cases :—

- Case No. 1.* Girl, aged 9 : occurred 13 days after discharge of an infecting case, a sister, aged 11, from hospital. Patient had been kept in hospital 32 days and was a moderately severe case presenting no complications. She had been quite well since discharge and had shown no symptoms of renewed infectivity. Contact of infecting with return case had been by day only.
- Case No. 2.* Boy, aged 10 : occurred 13 days after discharge of infecting case, a brother, aged 8, from hospital. Patient had been kept in hospital 56 days, was originally a moderately severe case, and was retained in hospital for a prolonged period on account of sore nose. Patient had enlarged tonsils, but beyond this there was no signs of renewed infectivity. Contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 3.* Boy, aged 16 : occurred 10 days after discharge of infecting cases, two sisters, aged 13 and $2\frac{1}{2}$, from hospital. Patients had each been in hospital 28 days ; one had been severe, the other moderately severe without complications. There had been no signs of renewed infectivity in either patient. The contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 4.* Boy, aged 8 : occurred 8 days after discharge of infecting case, a brother, aged 4, from hospital. Patient had been admitted in the late stage of the disease, the second week. He was kept in hospital 55 days on account of nephritis. On discharge his tonsils were enlarged, but nose clean. His mother noticed that he had had a "cold" one or two days before the onset of scarlet fever in the return case. On examination he has some slight nasal discharge and much enlarged tonsils. Contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 5.* Female, aged 26, mother of Case No. 4 and infecting case : occurred 24 days after discharge of infecting case from hospital. Contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 6.* Female, aged 35, occurred 11 days after infecting case, a son, aged 7, from hospital. Patient had been retained in hospital 27 days. He had been a mild case without complications apart from a transient albuminaria. He had been quite well after discharge apart from the presence of a small sore about the mouth, which developed soon after discharge. Contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 7.* Girl, aged 10 : occurred 4 days after discharge of infecting case, aged 6, a brother, from hospital. Patient had been retained in hospital 29 days. He had been a mild case without complications. He had been well after discharge apart from a sore in the nose, which was noticed soon after discharge. Contact had been by day only.
- Case No. 8.* Boy, aged 13 : occurred 4 days after discharge of infecting case, a sister, aged 11, from hospital. Patient had been retained in hospital 32 days. She had been a mild case without complications, but the tonsils were chronically enlarged. She had developed a

“cold” soon after discharge. She had slept in the same bedroom with this and the two succeeding cases, but in a separate bed.

Case No. 9. Girl, aged 9, sister of case No. 8, occurred 4 days after discharge of infecting case.

Case No. 10. Boy, aged 10, brother of Cases Nos. 8 and 9, occurred 9 days after discharge of infecting case.

Case No. 11. Male, aged 34: occurred 17 days after onset of infecting case, a son, aged 6, from hospital. Patient had been retained in hospital 54 days. He had been a moderately severe case, complicated by adenitis and double otorrhea; he was also suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids. He was discharged against advice and on the parents' urgent request, with double otorrhea. He had shared the same bedroom with the remaining members of the family, but had a separate bed.

Case No. 12. Female, aged 32, wife of Case No. 11: occurred 11 days after discharge of infecting case, her son, from hospital.

Case No. 13. Male, aged 1 year 2 months, son of Cases Nos. 11 and 12: occurred 11 days after discharge of infecting case from hospital.

Case No. 14. Male, aged 23: occurred 24 days after discharge of infecting case, a sister, aged 8, from hospital. Patient had been retained in hospital 42 days, having been retained over the usual period on account of rhinorrhea. She had been a mild case with no complications. It was stated that she had been quite well since discharge, but on examination on occurrence of the return case, there was a good deal of tonsillar enlargement. Contact had been by day only.

Case No. 15. *Not strictly classifiable as a return case on account of time of occurrence.* Female, aged 22: occurred 30 days after discharge of infecting case, a sister, aged 7 from hospital. Patient had been detained in hospital 61 days. She had been a moderately severe case complicated by a relapse and had also had attacks of high temperature attributed to inflammation of the tonsils, which were considerably enlarged on discharge. The mother stated that she had had a sore nose since discharge, and on examination on the occurrence of the return case the nose was sore and crusted.

It will be seen that the above-described 14 cases coming within the definition, occurred in connection with the discharge of 9 cases from hospital (the two sisters in Case No. 3 being reckoned as one infecting case only). This corresponds to a percentage of cases giving rise to return cases among those discharged, a total of 114, of 7.9.

2.—Smallpox.

No cases were admitted to the smallpox hospital during the year.

XV. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following table shows the number of cases and the result of treatment.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

CASES			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
3	2	1	3	—	—	—

Of the 3 cases notified 1 was treated in St. Peter’s Hospital while 2 cases were treated at home.

If neglected or untreated their condition is liable to lead to serious damage to the eyes, and in order to secure that advice or treatment is not delayed on account of poverty or unwillingness of the parents to incur expense for medical advice, your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee has decided that in no case shall the fee for medical attention under the Midwives Acts be recovered from the parents of the patients in any case of inflammation of eyes in the new born for which advice is sought by the midwife.

XVI. Tuberculosis.

The following table indicates the number of new cases and deaths from this disease during the year under review, and the institutions to which patients were sent.

Tuberculosis.

					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
(a) Pulmonary—							
Males	...	...	...	...	18	19	10
Females	...	...	...	...	12	10	9
Total ...					30	29	19
(b) Non-Pulmonary—							
Males	...	...	...	...	5	...	4
Females	...	...	...	...	4	2	0
Total ...					9	2	4

The following statement shows the institutions to which the patients notified were removed :—

Institution				No. of cases removed	Remarks
Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium				...	...
Pulmonary				18	
St. Peter's Hospital				...	...
Pulmonary				5	One patient admitted twice.
Frimley Sanatorium				...	...
Pulmonary				1	
Brompton Hospital				...	...
Pulmonary				1	
Ventnor Sanatorium				...	...
Pulmonary				3	
King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst				...	...
Pulmonary				1	
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London				...	...
Non-Pulmonary				1	
Creaton Sanatorium				...	...
Non-Pulmonary				1	

The following statement shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	67	84	151
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	32	28	60
Totals				99	112	211

During the year the total number of deaths registered as due to tuberculosis was 23, of which 19 were pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. The corresponding figures for 1932 were a total of 31, including 25 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary. The figures for 1933 correspond to a death rate of 0.47 per thousand for pulmonary and 0.10 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following table indicates the age distribution of the cases and deaths.

Age Periods.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
5	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	...	...	...	2	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
20	...	...	...	3	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	1	5	1	1	1	4	—	—
35	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	...	...	...	6	—	—	—	6	2	—	—
55	...	...	...	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals				18	12	5	4	10	9	4	0

All patients notified as suffering from tuberculosis are visited by the Health Visitors unless for any reason such visits are undesirable. Visits are paid on notification and subsequently in accordance with the amount of supervision required.

The following table shows the number of visits paid :—

First visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Systematic re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	206
Re-visits for special purposes	...	...	...	...	...	21
Useless calls (<i>i.e.</i> , patients not at home)	...	...	...	...	...	38
Total ...						298

43 rooms were disinfected after death or removal of patients.

No occasion arose for action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

XVII. Maternity and Child Welfare.

1.—Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

(a) Premises and Attendances.

Four sessions a week are now held for children at the Centre at 3 Brereton Road, at three of which the Medical Officer is in attendance, while a session for ante-natal examinations and advice is held fortnightly.

During the course of the year the Kennedy Road Centre continued in use, and it will be seen from the table that the attendances at this Centre increased much during the course of the year. It was always felt that the situation of this Centre was not ideal, and that the real place for a Centre was in the neighbourhood of London Road, where it would be more easily accessible for the greater part of the population on the housing estate. During the year under review the building known as Community Hall was erected, and the managers agreed to let this hall for use as a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre on one afternoon a week. This arrangement came into force at the beginning of the present year. At the present time no doctor attends this Centre, but when the work at this Centre increases, as it will no doubt do, on account of the transfer of a large number of babies and young children to the Housing Estates, it is proposed to discontinue the attendance of the doctor for one session a week at Brereton Road and for her to attend Community Hall that day instead.

The following table shows the total attendances at the Centres for 1933 as compared with 1932.

						1932		1933
Total attendances at No. 3 Brereton Road	...				...	8,296	...	7,170
Total attendances at Kennedy Road	...				...	306	...	1,095
Total at both Centres	...				...	8,602	...	8,265
Number of individual children attending at								
No. 3 Brereton Road	...	...	...	...	...	683	...	600
Number of individual children attending at								
Kennedy Road	...	...	...	...	...	63	...	83
Number attending both Centres					...	746		683
Number of individual mothers attending								
No. 3 Brereton Road	...	...	...	...	...	575	...	497
Number of indivual mothers attending Kennedy								
Road	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	57
Number attending both Centres					...	625	...	554
Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	277	...	234

It will be seen that there has been a certain falling off both in the number of attendances and in the number of individual children attending both Centres taken together in the year 1933 as compared with 1932. This falling off in attendances as compared with the previous year had also been noticed in 1932 and 1931. It is probably to be attributed largely to the fact that so many babies and young children have their homes on the housing estates, whence the journey into the centre of the town with young children may be difficult for many mothers. The continued fall in the birth rate will also have played a part. Another factor in the falling off in attendances during 1933 has probably been the fact that the new municipal houses built in that year have been almost entirely outside the Borough boundary, and so are not visited by the health visiting staff of the Borough. With the extension of the Borough boundary on April 1st, 1934, these houses will be incorporated within the Borough.

(b) **REPORT by DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.**
Medical Officer in charge of Centre.

Child Welfare Clinic.

With an average weekly attendance (exclusive of Fridays) of 133 children the numbers at the clinic allow of fairly easy handling and of individual contact with the Health Visitors, while it is possible for the doctor to see all those needing medical advice.

The doctor aims at seeing every baby at or soon after its first attendance and at least every 3 months thereafter ; actually, the young babies are seen more frequently, and it is still difficult to persuade mothers to bring for regular inspection older children who appear to them to be well.

Out of 199 children who were 8 months old or under at their first visit to the Centre, 146 were wholly and 9 partially breastfed, while 44 were being artificially fed. Efforts to maintain or re-establish a failing milk supply are often successful, but there are unfortunately cases where the milk, though plentiful, disagrees, and the baby does not flourish until given some form of cow's milk.

This year an effort has been made to combat the so-called "nutritional anaemia of infancy" attributed to a deficiency of iron in the diet (whether human or cow's milk) by giving to the babies most likely to be affected (*i.e.*, premature, small or pale babies), a daily ration of iron and ammonium citrate. The results appear in most cases to be satisfactory.

Advice is chiefly asked upon questions of feeding, especially difficulties arising in the early days of artificial feeding, during teething and at weaning ; but it is still often necessary to explain that the Clinic is not a treatment centre, and does not welcome children who are only brought when ailing.

Sunlight Clinic.

Treatment was given to 37 children, most of whom were suffering from malnutrition, minor degrees of rickets, or chronic bronchitis. The abundance of sunlight during the summer months made the use of arti-

ficial light seem somewhat superfluous, and some sessions were omitted. Some children seemed to be made irritable by the treatment if given in very hot weather, and there were as usual a few children whose mothers complained that the treatment made them "nervy." On the whole, however, the treatment was found useful and appeared to have a good effect upon sleep, appetite and spirits.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Of the 69 expectant mothers attending the Clinic during the year 55 attended for the first time. Of these, 22 were expecting their first babies, one her fifth and one her sixth. One was found not to be pregnant.

Seven were sent by the Health Visitors, 20 came on the recommendation of midwives, who sometimes accompanied their patients; 13, who were entering St. Peter's Hospital for their confinements, were sent by the Public Assistance Officer and three by doctors who were not attending the confinements. Twelve came on their own initiative or at the instigation of friends. Five mothers had attended the Clinic during earlier pregnancies. Practically all the mothers attended the Clinic as long as, and as often as, required.

Reports of 49 confinements have been received from the midwives concerned. In ten cases medical help was needed—in three of these for prolonged labour necessitating instrumental delivery, in one for a malpresentation not admitting of ante-natal rectification. In other cases mother or child needed medical attention after a normal delivery by the midwife, *e.g.*, for haemorrhage of the mother or feebleness of the child. Two babies died soon after birth, one of them premature, the other having congenital malformations. One mother had been put under the care of her doctor for oedema, and this, her sixth, pregnancy resulted contrary to all her expectations, in her first living child.

Some of the mothers are found to have carious or septic teeth which are detrimental to their health and may be a danger after confinement, but they are unwilling for reasons of finance or prejudice to seek dental treatment. Provision of free dental treatment in necessitous cases would meet the financial difficulty and should have also an educative effect.

(*Signed*) DORA MASON,
Medical Officer in Charge of Centre.

(c) Sale of Foods.

Dried milk and Virol are sold at cost price to parents attending the Centre. It is a condition of sale that the child for whom the milk is obtained should attend the Centre regularly. Fresh and dried milk are given free to those children whose parents are unable to afford it, and in whose case it is necessary on the grounds of health. Before any milk is so given, it must be authorised by the Medical Officer of Health, and a member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and all authorisations are reviewed by a sub-committee of this Committee.

Some cod liver oil, cod liver oil and malt, cod liver oil and malt with Parrish's food, and some Haliverol, are also distributed free to those children in need of it from a special fund for this and other purposes.

The following table shows the amount of various foods sold or distributed at the centre in 1933, the figures for 1932 being given for comparison.

SALE OF FOODS.

Foods	Sold at full cost		Sold at half cost		Given free		Total amount of Food disposed of		Cash received from sales					
	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933		1932			
	lbs.	lbs	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dried Milk	1139	2059	—	—	117	134	1256	2193	98.	12.	0	165.	12.	2
Virol ...	172	160½	—	—	54	78	226	238½	15.	18.	6	19.	17.	6

3,406½ pints of fresh milk were distributed free as compared with 3,658 pints in 1932. 47lbs. of cod liver oil and malt and 39lbs. of cod liver oil and Parrish's food were distributed free, in addition to some cod liver oil and 20 c.c. of Haliverol.

It will be seen from these figures that there has been a considerable diminution in the amount of dried milk disposed of. This is to be explained mainly by the greater use of cow's milk in place of dried milk when it is necessary to resort to artificial feeding. The greater confidence which is felt in the supply of liquid milk available no doubt accounts for a large part of this difference. On the one hand supplies of Grade A milk are available at the cost of ordinary milk, and on the other hand the process of pasteurisation which is carried out by certain milk distributors in the Borough may be relied upon to eliminate certain risks inherent in the use of ordinary ungraded milks for babies and young children. Moreover the improvement in housing conditions which has taken place in the past few years, largely on account of the provision of municipal houses, renders easier the storage of liquid milk so as to remain free from contamination.

Much help in this branch of the work is received from Voluntary Workers, who help with the work of the Centre, and from members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who supply tea to the mothers at a small cost.

(d) Ultra-Violet Treatment.

Sessions are held at 3 Brereton Road twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday mornings for this form of treatment.

The following table shows the extent of work undertaken :—

	1932	1933
Number of sessions held	96	76
Total number of attendances	549	359
Number of individual children treated ...	51	38

One child of school age had 12 treatments and is included in the figures given above. The diminution in the amount of treatment given as compared with 1932 may be accounted for by the large amount of bright sunshine in 1933, which rendered this treatment unnecessary.

2.—Health Visiting.

(a) Work of Health Visitors.

The total number of births notified in the town after correction for residence of parents is 452. The number is arrived at after allowance has been made for outward transfers of births in cases where parents were residents outside the Borough and inward transfers of births where the birth took place outside the Borough though the parents were normally resident within the Borough. The following table shows the number of births occurring in institutions and those occurring in private practice, of doctors and midwives, both of the total notified before correction, and the number after correction for outward transfers only, the information required for the table not being available in the case of inward transfers.

Table of Live Births Notified.

				In Institutions	In Private Practice			
					By Doctors	By Midwives		
Total	...	...	...	292	...	83	...	220
After correction of outward								
transfers only	...	...	...	130	...	81	...	213

The total number of births, 452, shows a considerable diminution as compared with the number for the previous year. This diminution is to be accounted for in part by the transfer to the housing estates outside the Borough boundary of so many families among which the birth rate is higher than the rest of the community, and in part by a real fall in the birth rate in the general population.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Health Visitors during the year under review, the figures for the previous year being given for comparison :—

				1932	1933
Total primary visits paid to infants	...	...	...	434	387
Total re-visits, under 1 year	...	...	...	1,523	1,626
Total re-visits, 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	3,380	3,669
Total number of ante-natal visits	...	...	...	89	84
Total number of special visits	...	...	...	359	368
Total number of useless visits, <i>e.g.</i> mother not at home	...	...	...	792	1,005

Visits are paid by the Health Visitors to all infants except where such are obviously unnecessary. The table shows that of the corrected total births notified, 85.6 per cent. were visited by the Health Visitors.

The general scheme of health visiting provides for the payment of a first visit as soon after the tenth day as possible, and at intervals thereafter till the age of 5 years. There are three Health Visitors on the staff, two employed whole-time, and one half-time, the last also acting as school nurse. In addition to their work in visiting, a large part of the time of the Health Visitors is taken up in attendance at the Centre, and in work at the treatment clinics.

As an indication of the success of the Health Visitors in encouraging natural, as opposed to artificial, feeding, the following table gives the number of children found to be breast fed or artificially fed on visits paid at, or soon after, six months, during the year under review, the figures for the previous year being given for comparison.

			Entirely breast fed		Partially breast fed		Artificially fed						
			1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933					
Regular attendants at Centre.			30	43	...	33	7	...	97	57			
Children visited at home not included in above	126	115	...	26	9	...	58	94		
Totals			156	158	...	59	16	...	155	151

It would not perhaps be quite true to say that the figures given are strictly comparable for the separate years since the time of making the calculations for the purposes of the table is not strictly at 6 months but as soon after that period as an attendance is made at the Centre or a visit paid.

Nevertheless, so far as they go the figures appear to indicate an improvement in the proportion of those children who are entirely breast fed to those children who are entirely or partially artificially fed. It is still the case that the proportion of infants found to be entirely breast fed is higher among those visited at home and not classed as regular attendants than among the number of regular attendants at the Centre, the explanation probably being that attendance at the Centre is more likely to be regular in cases where artificial feeding has been resorted to in order to obtain the necessary advice and the necessary food. It may certainly be said that the figures themselves are more satisfactory for 1933 than for either of the two preceding years, though in view of the difficulty of obtaining absolutely comparable figures and the liability to fluctuation of relatively small numbers too much weight should not be laid on this improvement.

(b) **Children Act 1908, Part I. Infant Life Protection and Children and Young Persons Act 1932.**

During the year under review the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, were in force for the first time. This Act, so far as it relates to Infant Life Protection, makes more stringent the provision of giving notice on reception of a child, on change of address, or on giving up a child, and thus enables closer supervision to be exercised in the case of persons who have taken or propose to take children for gain for purposes of nursing and maintenance.

All children who come under the scope of the Act are visited by the Health Visitors regularly at three-monthly intervals, and also as occasion requires when a child is newly received or on change of address. Special visits are also paid as the result of information received from other areas, in order to confirm information as to the movements of children who are or have been boarded out. In some cases during the past year there has been failure to comply with the requirement of the Act as to giving of notices within the statutory time. As these failures have, on investigation, been proved to be due to ignorance, it has not been considered necessary by your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to take legal action in any case.

The following table shows the work done under the Act :—

	1932	1933
Number of primary visits under Children Act, 1908	21	17
Number of re-visits	52	112
Number of special visits	12	13
Number of useless visits	5	11

3.—Dental Treatment.

(a) **Scope of Work.**

A dental clinic is held once a month for children under school age in need of such treatment. Such children are discovered by the Health Visitors in the course of their ordinary visiting, and when the parents are willing they are advised to bring the children to the clinic for treatment.

The following table shows the extent of work done :—

	1932	1933
Number of sessions held	12	10
Number of individual children attending... ..	78	75
Number of attendances made by these children	123	102
Number of extractions	267	163
Number of fillings	117	78

(b) REPORT OF THE DENTAL OFFICER.**V. A. Vasey, L.D.S.**

The number of children under school age attending this Clinic is practically the same as the past year, but comparing the figures, it would appear that there is an improvement in the mouths of the children, since there has not been the same amount of work to be done. Whilst every effort is made to do as much conservative work as possible so that there is no interruption of the steady growth of the child's dentition, yet, of necessity, the number of extractions is bound to be far in excess of the fillings; this is due to the fact that, in most cases, only when the child is suffering from pain and discomfort is there an opportunity of inspecting the mouth. More often than not the teeth complained of are too far decayed for any conservative treatment.

There is undoubtedly great room for the development of the work of the Clinic and with the co-operation of the parents quite a lot of needless suffering on the part of the child could be avoided.

My thanks are due to the Health Visitors for their help in bringing to the notice of the parents the value of the Clinic and to Miss Dickson for her capable assistance in the Clinic itself.

(Signed) V. A. VASEY,
Dental Officer.

4.—Complicated Midwifery Cases.

The Council accepts financial responsibility for maternity cases admitted to the County Hospital which are likely to prove difficult or complicated, and where patients are not in a position to make their own arrangements for payment.

The following table shows the number of patients so dealt with :—

Number of cases admitted to hospital during the	1932	1933
year 	20	11
Average duration of stay of each patient in		
hospital 	16.3 days...	17.7 days
Total sum paid by Borough in respect of such		
patients 	£169/11/7...	£99/2/10
Total sum recovered from patients 	£21/11/11...	£68/15/9

The sum given as having been received from patients includes £37 13s. 8d. received up to December 31st in respect of patients admitted during the year under review and £31 2s. 1d. in respect of arrears of payment of patients admitted in previous years.

Maternity outfits are placed in care of ladies in different parts of the town for the use of mothers requiring them.

5.—Maternal Mortality.

One death only of a Borough resident was registered during the year. In this case death was certified as having been due to obstetric shock ; it was not possible to suggest that death had in any way been due to lack of care during pregnancy or in childbirth. In addition to this case, one case in which an inquest was held was not registered as due to pregnancy or to childbirth. Sudden death occurred in the case of a woman who was 8 months pregnant, and there is little doubt that pregnancy was largely the cause of death, which was attributed to sudden heart failure. Though in this case there had been no real ante-natal care it is not possible to suggest that death had been in any way due to its absence. All cases occurring in Borough residents are investigated by your Medical Officer of Health and reports sent to the Ministry of Health in connection with the investigation of causes of maternal mortality still in progress. In addition to the cases occurring in Borough residents 4 cases occurred in institutions in the town of deaths of patients residing elsewhere. In cases occurring in persons normally resident in the county area the investigations are carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health.

6.—Infantile Mortality.

During the year 14 deaths of infants under 1 year of age took place, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of 35 per thousand. The rate for the country as a whole was 64.

The table of causes of death and age at death will be found in an earlier section of the report.

XVIII. Midwives Acts, 1902-1926.

During the year 24 midwives sent in notifications of their intention to practise midwifery. Many of these notifications refer to midwives in institutions who have undertaken temporary duty only. The number of midwives in private practice who notified their intention to practise was 10. The following list gives the number of cases attended by the midwives in the various classes of practice. Since some of the midwives practising in the Borough also practise outside, figures in brackets are given to indicate the total number of cases attended by midwives, whether within or without the area.

	No.	As Midwife	As Maternity Nurse	Total
Midwives in private practice ..	10	232 (330)	66 (72)	298 (402)
Midwives attached to Bedford County Hospital	4	105 (105)	47 (47)	152 (152)
Midwives attached to Public Assistance Institution ...	9	71 (71)	1 (1)	72 (72)
Midwife attached to Bedford and County Girls' Home ..	1	18 (18)	—	18 (18)
Totals ...	24	426 (524)	114 (120)	440 (644)

The following table shows the number of notices received from those midwives in general practice and attached to the Bedford and County Girls' Home, in respect, that is, of 250 patients attended by the midwives in that capacity, and 66 attended by them as maternity nurse. Maternity nurses are responsible for sending only these notices marked with an asterisk.

Sending for medical help	64
Deaths of (1) Mothers	1
(2) Children	5
Stillbirths	6
*Laying out the dead	—
*Contact with infection	3
Artificial feeding	5
	—
	84
	—

It will be seen from this table that medical help was sent for in 25.6 per cent. of cases attended by midwives.

Midwives in private practice are visited as a routine every three months by the Inspector of Midwives, and also as often as is necessary to make special enquiries.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Inspector of Midwives :—

Number of routine visits to midwives	...	...	36
Number of special visits to midwives	...	...	15
Number of interviews at office with midwives	...		13
Number of visits of enquiry, other than to midwives, in connection with ophthalmia neonatorum	...		—
Number of visits of enquiry, other than to midwives, in connection with puerperal fever or pyrexia....			—
Number of visits of enquiry, other than to midwives, in connection with stillbirths	...	...	—
Number of visits in connection with medical help not included in above	...	...	36
Number of visits in connection with other matters under Midwives' Acts	...	...	4
Number of useless visits (midwife or patient not at home)	...	...	11

Under Section 14 of the Midwives' Act, 1918, the Council is responsible for repayment of the fees of doctors called in by midwives, and recovering all or part of the cost from the patient, except in those cases where the doctor obtains his fee directly from the patient. The following table shows the number of cases in which fees were claimed and the amount of such fees, together with the amount recovered :—

Number of cases in which midwives sent for medical help	...	...	...	...	...	64
Number of cases in which doctors claimed fees from the Town Council	...	...	...	...	...	44
Amount of doctor's fees paid by the Town Council...	£57	. 8	. 0			
Amount recovered from the patients	...	...	£37	. 4	. 8	
Balance not recovered	...	...	...	...	£29	. 19 . 0

The amount received for patients includes a sum of £27 9s. 0d. paid up to December 31st, 1933, in respect of patients in which medical help was sought during the year under review and £9 15s. 8d. in respect of patients for whom medical help was sought during previous years.

One midwife was interviewed by your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for having failed to obtain medical help in a case where it should have been sought for in accordance with Rule 20 of the Central Midwives Board and also for failing to keep satisfactory ante-natal records. The case was reported to the Central Midwives Board, but in view of the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory evidence it was decided to proceed no further with the case.

In no case was it found necessary to suspend a midwife from practice on account of infection.

XIX. Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.

There were during the year under review 6 registered Nursing Homes within the Borough, of which three are nursing homes of larger type, with accommodation for all classes of cases, two are smaller homes for maternity patients only, while the Bedford and County Girls' Home is for the reception of unmarried mothers and their babies. The total number of beds in the Nursing Homes is at present as follows :—Maternity beds, 20 ; other beds, 39.

The smaller Maternity Homes are inspected by the Inspector of Midwives at the same time as she carries out the inspection of the midwife in charge, while the larger homes are visited from time to time by your Medical Officer of Health.

One application to establish a new Nursing Home was received by your Council during the year. On its being pointed out to the applicant that the general condition of the premises was not suitable for the establishment of a Nursing Home she decided to withdraw her application.

It was also found that two houses were being used as a Nursing Home for the reception of persons who may be described as aged and infirm without registration. The necessity of registration was pointed out, but in both cases the use of the premises as Nursing Homes was discontinued soon after this necessity was indicated, so that registration was not in fact made.

XX. Public Health Laboratory.

The following table shows the amount of work done in the Laboratory during the year.

Bacteriological Diagnosis, 1933, and other Work.

Specimens Examined.	Totals.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria—Routine Examinations.			
Local Practitioners	96	2	94
Isolation Hospital	12	—	12
Outside Authorities	5	—	5
M.O.H. taken at Office and elsewhere	6	1	5
School Medical Officer	24	—	24
Diphtheria—			
Special Biochemical Tests supplemen-			
tary to Routine Examinations ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Sputums)	37	—	37
Ringworm	3	3	—
Other Bacteriological Examinations ...	2	—	2
Totals	185	6	179
Other Examinations	Totals	Up to Standard	Below Standard
Gerber Tests	403	333	70

In addition to the figures recorded above the routine bacteriological examination of water referred to in another section of this Report was carried out.

XXI. Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

1.—General Scope of Work.

The duties devolving upon the local authority under the above named Act are with regard to the sanitary accommodation used in connection with Factories, and the statutory requirements with regard to cleansing, ventilation and sanitary accommodation in respect of workshops, work places and bakehouses.

On the Register there are 529 factories, workshops, workplaces and bakehouses.

On the whole it may be stated that the above-mentioned premises are generally well maintained and obligations under the Act adhered to.

In the course of carrying out the administration of the Act, 555 visits of inspection was made.

Six notifications as to occupation of workshops were received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and the premises were duly added to the Register.

Notifications were also received from H.M. Inspector in three instances with regard to alleged contraventions as under :—

- (a) 2 instances of periodic limewashing of bakehouses being overdue.
- (b) No intervening space between sanitary accommodation and workshop.

Investigations were made in each case and appropriate action taken to secure compliance with the requirements, and H.M. Inspector was duly notified when the necessary works had been completed.

Contraventions were discovered in 25 instances and remedial measures adopted in consequence of informal notice.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries & Bakehouses)	106	4	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries & Bakehouses)	244	7	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	205	14	—
Totals	555	25	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	13	13	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	10	10	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences†	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	25	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.

2.—Homework.

Twice yearly (February and August) forms are sent out to occupiers of factories and workshops with regard to the outworkers employed by them.

59 forms were sent, and 41 were returned in respect of 45 persons, and notifications were received from five other authorities in respect of 7 persons, making a total of 52 outworkers.

A total of 58 visits were made for the purpose of inspection of outworkers' premises. Satisfactory conditions were found to prevail, and there has been no instance of infectious disease in connection with this class of premises during the year.

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